

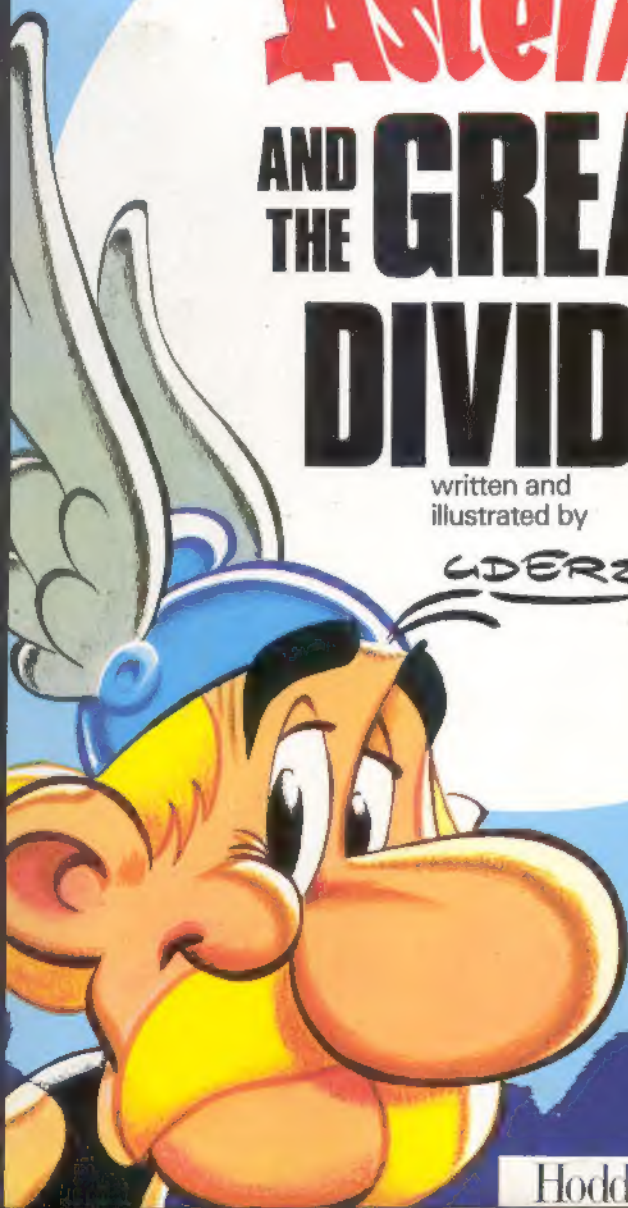
R. GOSCINNY - A. UDERZO

**Asterix**

AND  
THE **GREAT  
DIVIDE**

written and  
illustrated by

UDERZO



Hodder & Stoughton



SOMEWHERE IN GAUL, PEACE WOULD BE REIGNING IN A LITTLE VILLAGE VERY LIKE THE VILLAGE WHERE ASTERIX LIVES...

... BUT FOR VARIOUS PECULIAR INCIDENTS. A BIG DITCH HAS BEEN DUG THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE, SO THAT NO ONE CAN GET FROM THE RIGHT SIDE TO THE LEFT SIDE.

**CLEVERDIX**  
HAS BEEN ELECTED CHIEF BY THE LEFT OF THE VILLAGE...

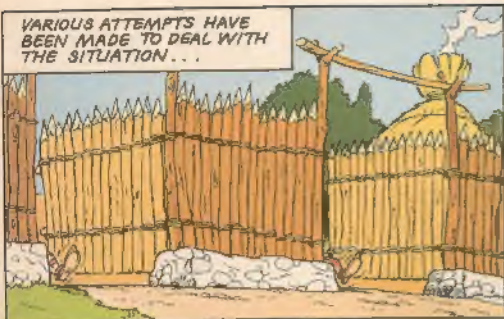
NEVER MIND WHAT THE OTHER LOT SAY, I'VE BEEN UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED VILLAGE CHIEF!

**MAJESTIX** HAS BEEN ELECTED CHIEF BY THE RIGHT OF THE VILLAGE... MONARCH OF HALF HE SURVEYS.

BY DIVINE RIGHT!



VARIOUS ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION...



AND THE VILLAGERS OF THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT ARE EVER READY TO EXPRESS THEIR MUTUAL ANTAGONISM.



BUT IT WOULD TAKE POSITIVELY SINISTER DEXTERITY TO SOLVE CERTAIN VITAL PROBLEMS...



... AND ONLY THE CHILDREN ARE ANY BETTER OFF FOR THE RIFT.



SOME OF THE VILLAGERS, HAVING OPTED FOR NEUTRALITY, FIND THAT IT HAS ITS DISADVANTAGES.



IN CHIEF  
CLEVERDIX'S  
HUT...

LOOK HERE, FATHER, THIS CAN'T GO  
ON! THAT DITCH DIVIDING US IS A  
DISGRACE TO THE VILLAGE!

IS THAT MY  
FAULT, HISTRIONIX,  
MY BOY? THAT  
TRAITOR MAJESTIX  
SANK TO BRIBING  
SOME OF THE  
VOTERS!

HE AND HIS  
HENCHMAN, THE  
UNSPEAKABLE CODFIX,  
HAD THE NERVE TO  
GET VOTES FROM  
VILLAGERS WHO WERE  
ONLY BABES IN ARMS!

WELL, AT THIS RATE  
FUTURE GENERATIONS  
OF GAULS AREN'T  
GOING TO THINK  
MUCH OF THEIR  
ANCESTORS!

CAN  
YOU SUGGEST  
ANYTHING,  
FATHER?

YES, MY BOY,  
I CAN. I'VE  
DECIDED TO MAKE A  
SPEECH TO THE VILLAGERS  
OPPOSITE. THAT'LL BRIDGE  
THE GAP. THEY'LL SOON  
SEE HOW WRONG  
THEY WERE TO  
DITCH ME!

AND IN CHIEF  
MAJESTIX'S  
HUT...

OH, FATHER, DO YOU  
REMEMBER HOW HAPPY  
THE VILLAGE WAS  
WHEN WE ONLY  
HAD ONE CHIEF,  
ALTRUISTIX?

YES, I DO: THE OLD  
60-AND-50 TOOK  
AFTER HIS COUSIN  
ALCAPONIX... MAKING  
OFF WITH ALL THE  
VILLAGE'S TAXES!

THIS IS ALL THAT FOOL  
CLEVERDIX'S FAULT! HE  
STOLE VOTES WHICH WERE  
MINE BY RIGHT.

HE EVEN PROMISED TO  
BRING DOWN INFLATION, AND  
THOSE IDIOTS FELL FOR IT!  
THAT WAS WHEN THE  
BALLOON WENT UP!

MELODRAMA IS RIGHT!  
WE NEED A SINGLE CHIEF  
TO LEAD THE VILLAGE. YOU  
LET THEM KNOW OVER  
ON THE LEFT THAT YOU'RE  
THE RIGHTFUL CHIEF!

CODFIX,  
YOUR ADVICE  
ISN'T ALWAYS  
COWSWALLOP!  
YES, I'LL  
ADDRESS  
THEM!

AND SOON  
AFTERWARDS...



BROTHERS, WE ARE HOVERING ON THE BRINK OF VILLAGE DISASTER! BUT THE PARTY OF THE LEFT OFFERS FULL EMPLOYMENT... MAXIMUM PRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL FOR ALL WORKERS...

... SHIELD-BEARERS INCLUDED. DON'T YOU LISTEN TO MAJESTIX! HE'D PLUCK THE VERY WINGS FROM YOUR HELMETS! WORKERS OF THE VILLAGE, UNITE!

CROSS THE GREAT DIVIDE!

POPULAR OPINION HAS REPLIED IN THE ONLY FITTING WAY TO THE LYING INSINUATIONS OF THAT DOUBLE-DEALING CLEVERDIX! WITH HIS BRINKMANSHIP, HE'D HAPPILY SACRIFICE THE GOOD OF THE VILLAGE TO THE INTERESTS OF ROME, SPOUTING HOT AIR ON BEHALF OF THE ROMAN GEEZER!

FRIENDS, GAULS, COUNTRYMEN, LET US THROW IN OUR LOT TOGETHER!

COME TO MY...

\*JULIUS CAESAR

VERY WELL, LET'S FIGHT IT OUT, YOU ROTTEN LOT, AND WE'LL SEE WHO'S LEFT IN COMMAND!

BY ALL MEANS, AND WE'LL SEE YOU DO A RIGHT ABOUT TURN!

RSRRRR! RSRRRR!

COME ON, LADS!  
I'M RELYING ON YOU TO  
SHOW 'EM THE PARTY OF  
THE LEFT IS IN THE  
RIGHT OF IT!

COME ON MEN!  
LET 'EM SEE THE PARTY OF  
THE RIGHT ISN'T GOING TO  
BE LEFT AT THE POST!



SOON  
AFTERWARDS...

WELL DONE, LADS!  
WE SET THEM RIGHT  
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO  
HOME NOW!

WELL DONE, MEN!  
YOU LEFT THEM STANDING  
ON THE LEFT! LET'S  
GO HOME NOW!



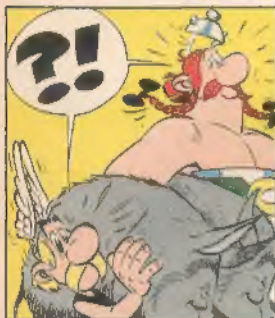


ELSEWHERE, PEACE IS REIGNING IN ANOTHER LITTLE VILLAGE, A VILLAGE WE ALL KNOW WELL...



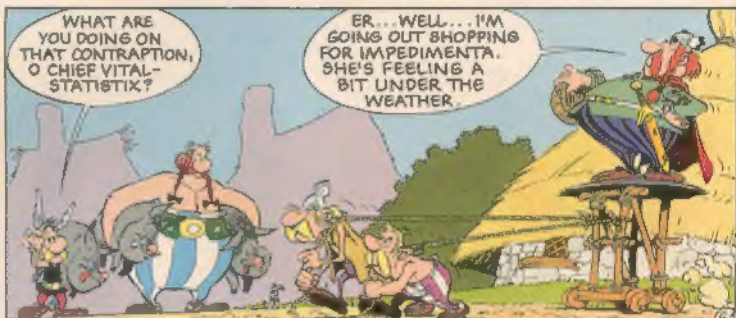
LOOK, IF PEACE IS REIGNING IN OUR LITTLE VILLAGE, THE VILLAGE THEY ALL KNOW WELL, THAT MEANS THE ROMANS ARE SULKING, ASTERIX!

NO, OBELIX, IT JUST MEANS THEY'VE LEARN'T A BIT OF SENSE!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THAT CONTRAPTION, O CHIEF VITAL-STATISTIK?

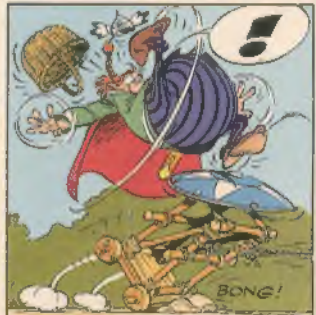
ER... WELL... I'M GOING OUT SHOPPING FOR IMPEDIMENTA. SHE'S FEELING A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER.



BUT WHAT'S THE CART FOR?

OH, THE CART! THAT'S A NEW IDEA OF MINE. IT MEANS THESE CLUMSY GREAT OAFS CAN'T LET ME DOWN ANY MORE WHEN THE FANCY TAKES THEM.

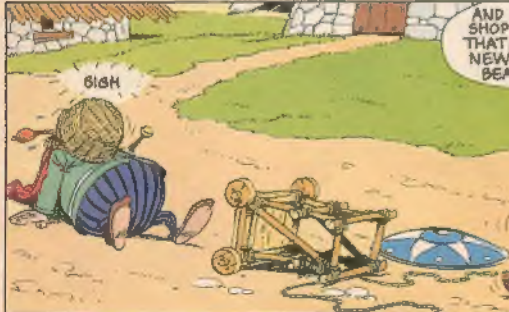
RIGHT, YOU TWO! WHATEVER YOU DO NOW, I STAND FIRM ON MY TRUSTY SHIELD! SO OFF WE GO SHOPPING!



BONG!

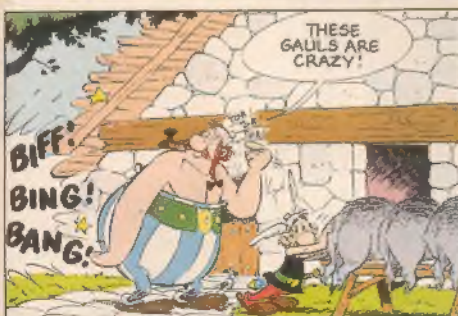
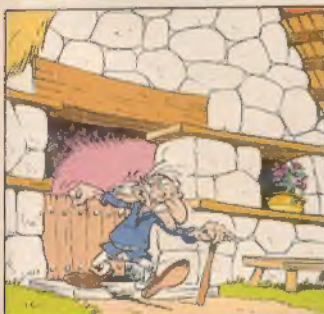
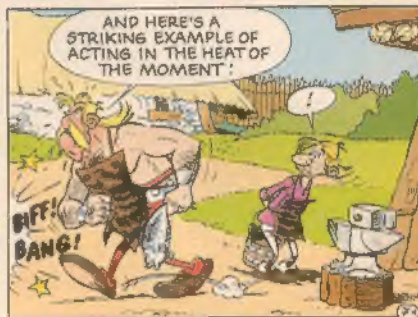
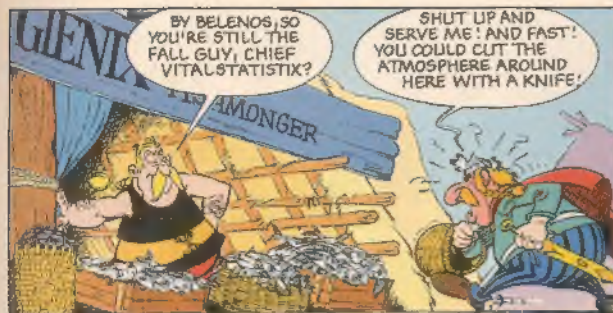
AND HE CAN'T SHOP US FOR THAT, OR GET NEW SHIELD-BEARERS...

NO, WE SHIELD-BEARERS OPERATE A CLOSED SHOP!

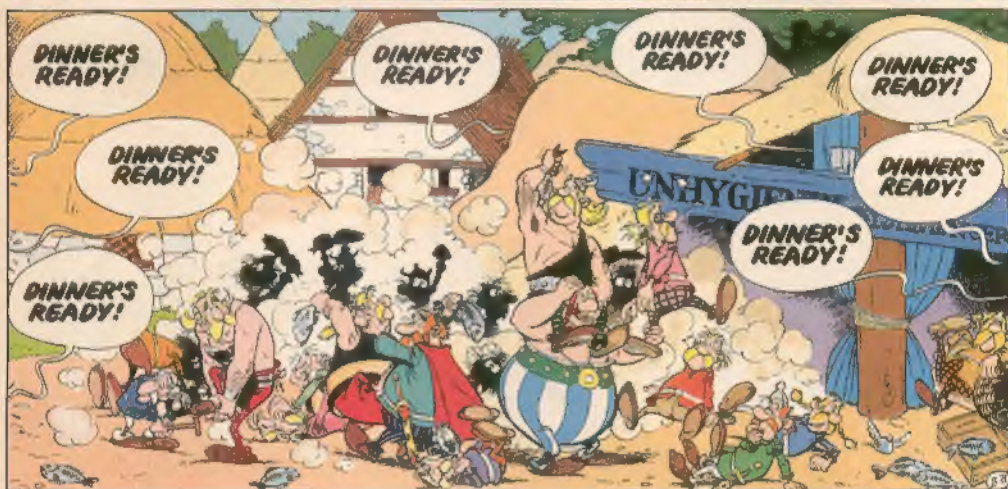


DOWNCAST AGAIN, PIGGYWIGGY? THINKING YOURSELF SO CLEVER... HUM! PIGS MIGHT FLY!

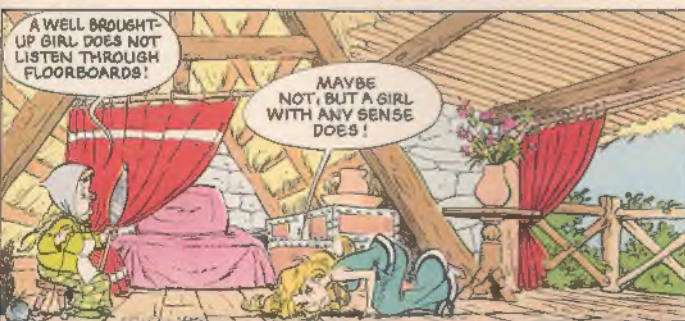
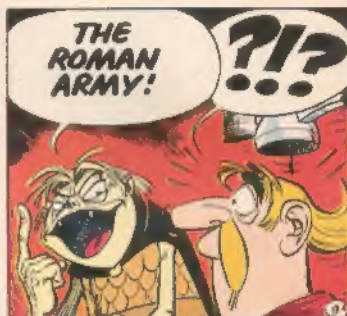
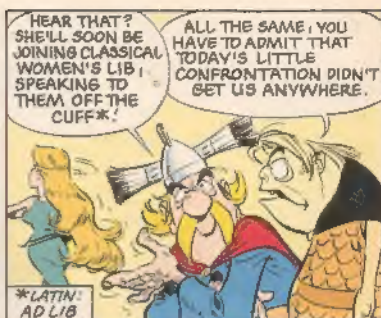














NIGHT HAS FALLEN, AND ALL IS  
CALM AGAIN IN THE VILLAGE

TIME FOR  
BED, SCHIZO-  
PHRENIX'

COMING  
DARLING

SONG!

CODRIX IS GOING  
TO ASK THE ROMANS TO  
HELP MAKE MY FATHER  
CHIEF OF THE WHOLE  
VILLAGE... AND IN RETURN  
MY FATHER HAS PROMISED  
HIM MY HAND IN  
MARRIAGE

HOW DARE HE?  
BUT I'M FROM THE  
OPPOSITE CAMP,  
MELODRAMA... WHY  
ARE YOU TELLING  
ME ALL THIS?

BECAUSE  
YOU'RE THE ONLY  
PERSON WITH ANY  
SENSE IN THIS CRAZY  
VILLAGE, AND DON'T  
WANT TO MARRY GOD  
FATHER STRIONIX,  
HISTRIONIX WHERE  
ARE ART THE  
HISTRIONIX?

!?!?

RAISE  
THE  
ALARM!

BONK!

ARE  
YOU HURT,  
HISTRIONIX?

NO I'M  
ALL RIGHT... I FANCY  
A PASSING SHOAL OF  
FISH BROKE MY  
FALL!

MY OWN DAUGHTER  
IN LEAGUE WITH THE  
ENEMY! TREACHERY UNDER  
MY OWN ROOF!



AND MY OWN FATHER  
ISN'T ASHAMED TO ASK THE  
ROMANS FOR HELP IN  
FIGHTING OUR OWN FRIENDS  
AND RELATIONS!

SHUT UP, YOU  
UNGRATEFUL CHILD!  
I'M GOING TO LOCK YOU  
IN YOUR ROOM, AND  
YOU DON'T COME OUT  
UNTIL THE DAY YOU  
MARRY CODFUX!



I NEVER WILL!  
I'D RATHER BE A  
VIRGIN SERVING VESTA\*  
ALL MY LIFE!

\*GIRLS CURRIED  
FAVOUR WITH  
THIS GODDESS

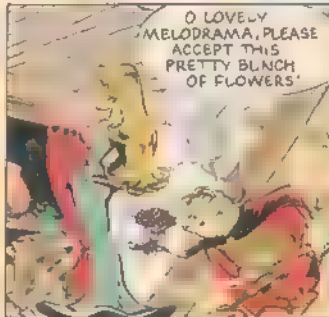
DON'T LET'S RUSH  
THIS MAJESTIX TIME  
AND PATIENCE WILL  
ACHIEVE MORE THAN  
RAGE AND VIOLENCE  
EVER COULD!



SOMETIMES  
I WONDER HOW  
I THINK THESE  
THINGS UP



O LOVELY  
MELODRAMA, PLEASE  
ACCEPT THIS  
PRETTY BLANCH  
OF FLOWERS!



WHAT MAKES YOU  
THINK YOU'RE A SMASH  
HIT WITH ME?



MEANWHILE

FATHER  
WAKE UP!



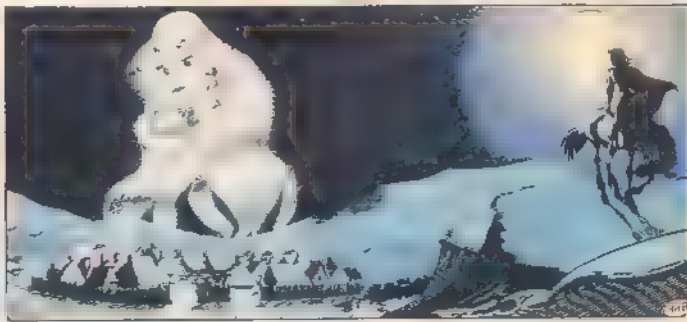
HMPH?  
WHAT IS  
IT?

MAJESTIX AND HIS  
HENCHMAN CODFUX  
ARE PLANNING TO ASK  
THE ROMANS TO HELP  
THEM CONQUER THE  
WHOLE VILLAGE!



OH ARE THEY?  
WELL, SON, I WANT  
YOU TO GO IN SEARCH OF  
MY OLD COMRADE - IN-  
ARMS VITA-STATISTIX  
HE AND I FOUGHT  
TOGETHER AT  
GERGOVIA

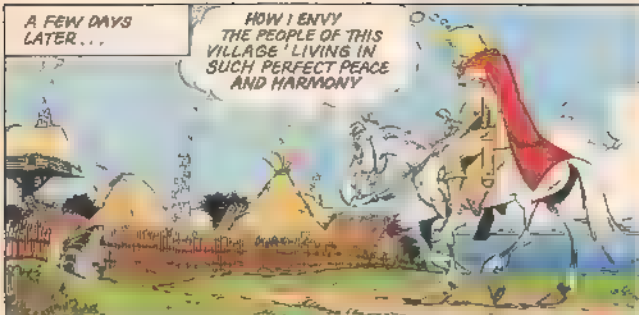
HE'S CHIEF OF A ARMORICAN  
VILLAGE A FEW DAYS' JOURNEY  
AWAY. THANKS TO THE DRUID  
GETAFIX'S MAGIC POTION,  
HE HAS KEPT THE WHOLE  
MIGHT OF CAESAR'S LEGIONS  
AT BAY! EXPLAIN IT ALL  
TO HIM, AND TELL HIM  
I NEED HIS HELP!





A FEW DAYS  
LATER...

HOW I ENVY  
THE PEOPLE OF THIS  
VILLAGE LIVING IN  
SUCH PERFECT PEACE  
AND HARMONY



YOU STUPID IGNORANT  
LOT! I'M NOT SELLING  
ANY MORE OF MY FISH  
TO THOSE WHO DON'T  
APPRECIATE ITS  
TRUE WORTH!

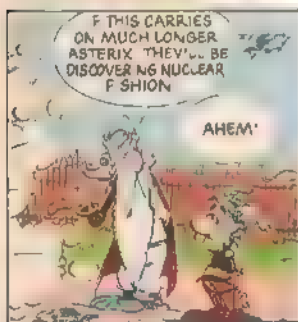
GOOD!!! THOSE WHO APPRECIATE  
ITS TRUE WORTH WILL TURN IT INTO  
GLUE, AND IT WON'T SMELL  
SO BAD!!!

?!

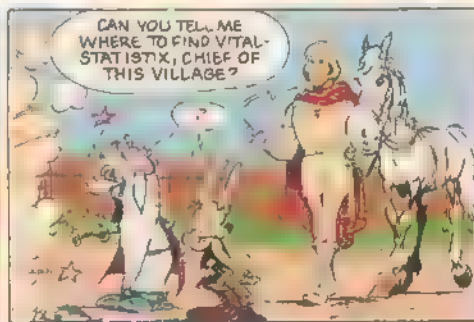


IF THIS CARRIES  
ON MUCH LONGER  
ASTERIX THEY'LL BE  
DISCOVERING NUCLEAR  
FISHION

AHEM



CAN YOU TELL ME  
WHERE TO FIND VITAL-  
STATISTIX, CHIEF OF  
THIS VILLAGE?



VITAL-STATISTIX?  
HE'S ON HIS  
WAY!



STOP! AND  
THAT'S AN  
ORDER!



I'M  
GOING TO CRACK  
UP I CAN FEEL IT  
COMING ON YES  
I'M GOING TO  
CRACK UP.



THIS  
IS IT! I'M  
CRACKING  
UP!



AND THAT, O CHIEF  
VITALSTATISTIX IS THE  
SAD STORY OF OUR VILLAGE  
ONLY YOUR DRUGGETAFIX'S  
MAGIC POTION AND THE  
WISDOM OF YOUR EXPERIENCED  
WARRIORS CAN SAVE US

HMPH, YES SPEAKING  
OF THE WISDOM OF MY EX-  
PERIENCED WARRIORS, I SOME-  
HOW FEEL I SHOULD BE  
PUTTING MY OWN HOUSE  
IN ORDER FIRST

BUT SINCE THE ROMANS  
LOOK LIKE GETTING MIXED UP IN  
YOUR AFFAIRS, I DON'T SEE WHY  
I SHOULDN'T LEND MY OLD  
COMRADE-IN-ARMS  
CLEVERDIX A HAND

THANK YOU, AND  
ON MY OWN BEHALF  
TOO! UNLESS WE  
FIND A PEACEFUL  
SOLUTION, MELTDOWN  
AND I CAN NEVER  
HOPE TO BE  
UNITED!

BOOHOOHOO  
?

BOOHOOHOOHOO

WHAT'S  
THE MATTER,  
OBELIX?

SNIFF!  
I GET ALL UPSET  
BY LOVE STORIES  
WITH UNHAPPY  
ENDINGS!  
SNIFF!

HUH!

BUT THIS STORY'S ONLY  
JUST BEGINNING, AND IF  
CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX WILL  
LET US, WE'RE GOING TO  
HELP HISTRIDRIX SOLVE  
HIS PROBLEMS!

OOH, YES,  
LET'S GOODY  
GOODY,  
GOODY!

WOOF!  
WOOF!

THE ROMANS AROUND HERE ARE  
KEEPING VERY QUIET JUST NOW, SO  
THANK I CAN JOIN THE EXPEDITION  
MYSELF! THE PEOPLE OF YOUR  
VILLAGE MAY NEED ME TO HELP  
THEM BRIDGE THE GREAT DIVIDE!

AND A LITTLE  
LATER

WILL  
HE SING?  
WON'T HE SING?  
WILL HE SING?  
WON'T HE  
SING?



IN THE ROMAN CAMP  
NEAR THE DIVIDED  
VILLAGE

HEY,  
SQUAD, I  
'LL SWAP YOU  
TWO SENTRY  
DUTIES FOR  
ONE LAUNDRY  
FATIGUE!

NOTHING  
DOING, YOU ALREADY  
OWE ME THREE COOK-  
HOUSE FATIGUES AND  
TWO LATRINE  
FATIGUES!

BACK IN THE  
RECRUITMENT OFFICE,  
THEY TOLD US WE'D  
GET BEAUTIFUL SLAVE-  
GIRLS FROM THE  
COUNTRIES WE CON-  
QUERED

BACK IN ROME, CAESAR  
SAID HE WAS COUNTING  
ON US TO CLEAN UP THE  
BARBARIANS. WHAT  
A WASH-OUT!

LOOT, THEY SAID.  
THE CARROT FOR  
THE DONKEY!

IT'S A MAN'S  
LIFE IN THE ARMY.  
THEY SAID.

ALL RIGHT  
WE KNOW  
WE KNOW

DECLARATION INFECTIOUS  
VIRUS, THIS TENT IS A PIGSTY,  
AND THE COOKING IN THE CAMP  
IS GOING FROM BAD TO  
WORSE!

I KNOW THE COOKHOUSE IS RE-  
VOLTING, O CENTURION. UNBROKEN  
DUMMIES, THERE'S A MOOD  
OF GENERAL UNREST. THE MEN WANT  
SLAVES TO DO THE DIRTY WORK. BUT  
CAESAR SAID WE WEREN'T TO  
TAKE SLAVES DURING THE  
ROMAN PEACE

WISH I'D BROUGHT  
MY SLAVE GIRL FROM  
HOME. NICE LITTLE  
ROMAN PIECE\*,  
SHE IS

\*PAX  
ROMANA

CENTURION,  
HAVE THE ANSWER  
TO ALL YOUR  
PROBLEMS

WHO LET  
YOU INTO  
THIS CAMP,  
GAUL?

THE MAN ON DUTY  
AT THE GATE. HE WAS QUITE  
HAPPY WHEN I OFFERED  
HIM A SLAVE IN  
EXCHANGE!

WHO ARE  
YOU, ANYWAY?  
HOW DARE YOU  
CORRUPT MY  
LEGIONARIES?

I'M FROM  
MAJESTIX RIGHT-  
FUL, CHIEF OF THE  
RIGHT SIDE OF OUR  
VILLAGE. IN HIS  
ALTER EGO AND  
RIGHT HAND!

AND THIS  
IS MY LEFT FOOT!  
BE OFF, OR I'LL  
ALTER YOUR EGO!

CHIEF  
MAJESTIX WANTS  
YOU TO HELP HIM PUT  
DOWN A REBELLION  
LED BY  
CLEVERDIX!

THAT'S NONE OF MY  
BUSINESS. THIS IS YOUR NUNC  
DIMITTIS. GET OUT, OR YOU'LL BE  
SINGING A DIFFERENT TUNE. A  
FUNERAL DIRGE FROM  
HYMN'S ANCIENT\*

\*HYMN'S MODERN  
AS YET UNWRITTEN

HOLD ON A MOMENT, CENTURION. YOU HELP MY CHIEF, CLEVERD X AND HIS MEN WILL BE CONQUERED SO YOU CAN MAKE THEM YOUR SLAVES. YOUR LEGIONARIES ARE VERY KEEN ON HAVING SLAVES

AND WHAT ABOUT CAESAR'S ORDERS, EH, GAUL?

NEVER MIND THAT, ROMAN. JUST THINK HALF THE VILLAGE FIGHTING FOR YOU THE OTHER HALF SERVING YOU AS SLAVES.

THAT'S ALL A LOAD OF COD! I'VE GOT OTHER FISH TO FRY GET MOVING BEFORE I PUT YOU ON FATIGUES YOURSELF!



THE SITUATION'S DETERIORATING. O CUMULONIMBUS! COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT GAUL'S IDEA HAD ITS POINTS. I MEAN CAESAR WOULD BE PLEASED WITH YOU FOR QUELTING A POTENTIAL MUTINY.

UNDER PRESSURE FROM EVERYONE. ALL RIGHT, GO AFTER THE GAUL AND TELL HIM, AGREE

HALT! IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE CAMP YOU'LL HAVE TO PROMISE ME ANOTHER SLAVE!

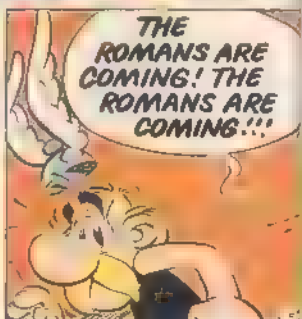
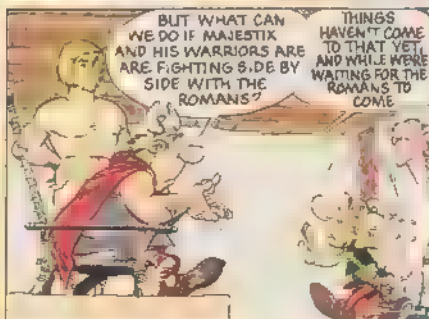
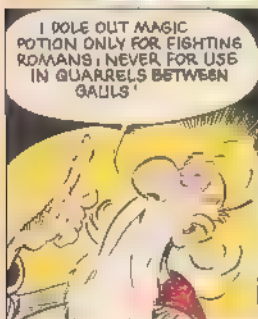
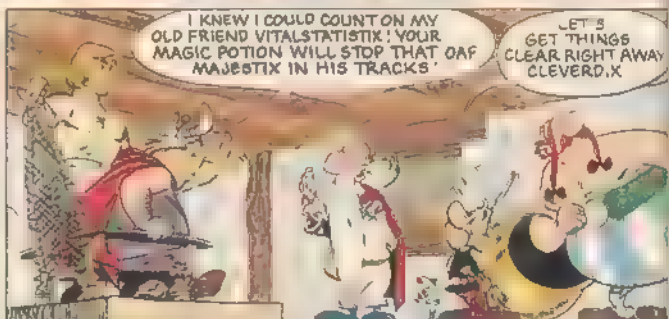
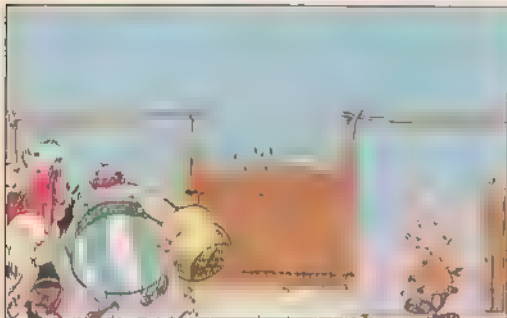
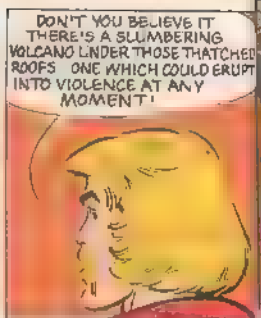
WAIT A MOMENT, GAUL!

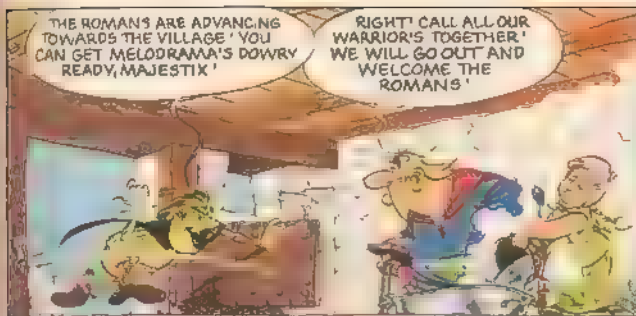
GO AND TELL YOUR CHIEF THAT WE WILL GIVE HIM THE HELP HE WANTS. JUST LET US HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO OUR LEGIONARIES

HO, HO! MY VILLAINY KNOWS NO BOUNDS AND I'M NOT THROUGH YET, BECAUSE WHEN I'VE MARRIED THE BEAUTIFUL MELODRAMA IT WILL BE EASY ENOUGH FOR ME TO DEPOSE THAT FOOL MAJESTIX AND BECOME CHIEF OF THE VILLAGE MYSELF

FUNNY, I COULD HAVE SWORN I SMELT SOMETHING FISHY!

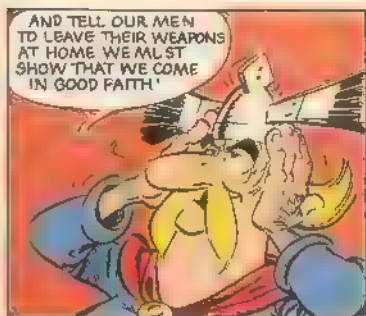




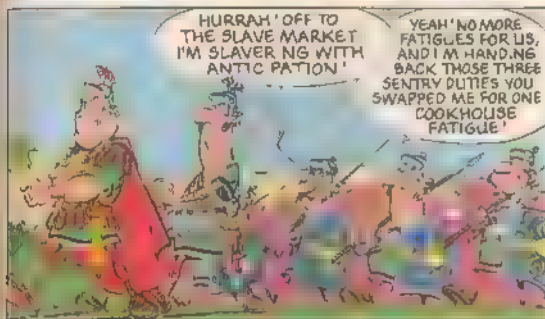


THE ROMANS ARE ADVANCING  
TOWARDS THE VILLAGE. YOU  
CAN GET MELODRAMA'S DOWRY  
READY, MAJESTIX!

RIGHT! CALL ALL OUR  
WARRIORS TOGETHER!  
WE WILL GO OUT AND  
WELCOME THE  
ROMANS!

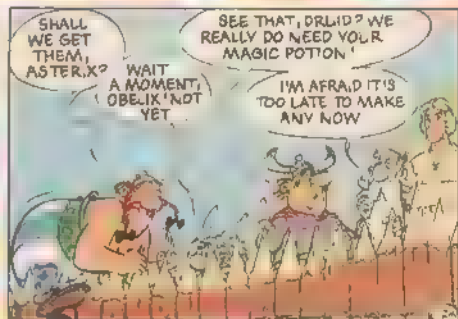


AND TELL OUR MEN  
TO LEAVE THEIR WEAPONS  
AT HOME. WE MUST  
SHOW THAT WE COME  
IN GOOD FAITH!



HURRAH! OFF TO  
THE SLAVE MARKET  
I'M SLAVING WITH  
ANTICIPATION!

YEAH! NO MORE  
FATIGUES FOR US,  
AND I'M HANDING  
BACK THOSE THREE  
SENTRY DUTIES YOU  
SWAPPED ME FOR ONE  
COOKHOUSE  
FATIGUE!

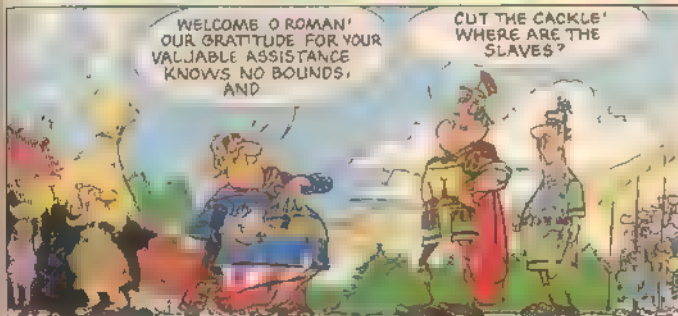


SHALL  
WE GET  
THEM,  
ASTERIX?

WAIT  
A MOMENT,  
OBELIX! NOT  
YET

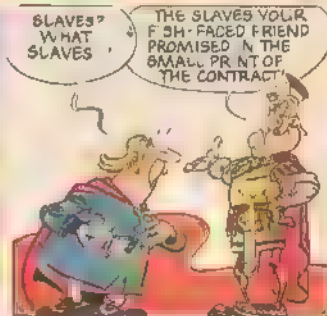
SEE THAT, DRUID? WE  
REALLY DO NEED YOUR  
MAGIC POTION!

I'M AFRAID IT'S  
TOO LATE TO MAKE  
ANY NOW



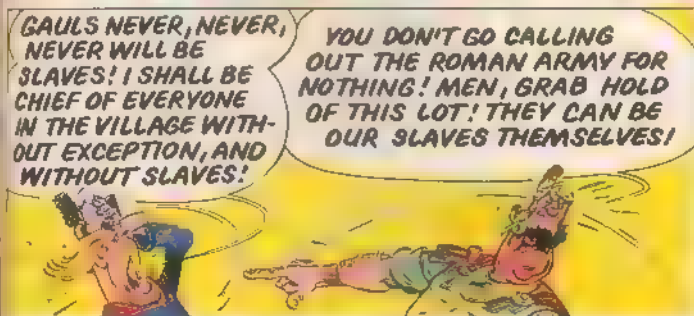
WELCOME O ROMAN!  
OUR GRATITUDE FOR YOUR  
VALUABLE ASSISTANCE  
KNOWS NO BOUNDS,  
AND

CUT THE CACKLE!  
WHERE ARE THE  
SLAVES?



SLAVES?  
WHAT  
SLAVES!

THE SLAVES YOUR  
FISH-FACED FRIEND  
PROMISED IN THE  
SMALL PRINT OF  
THE CONTRACT!



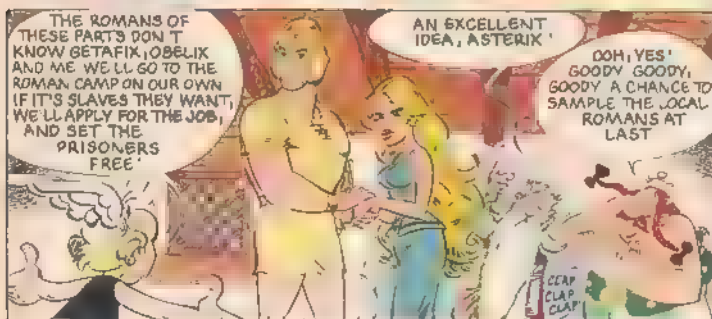
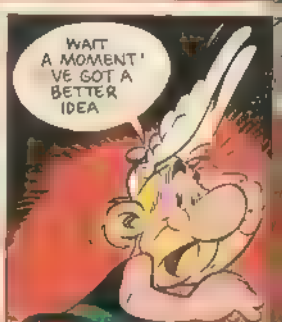
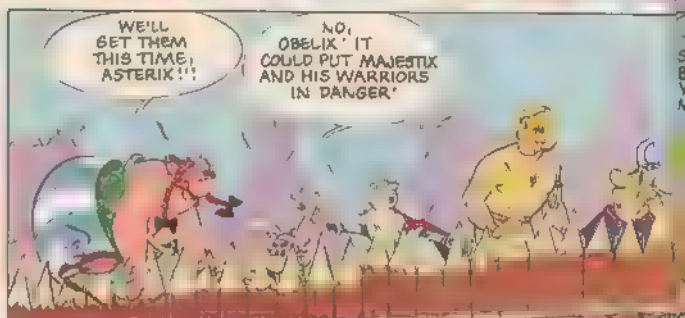
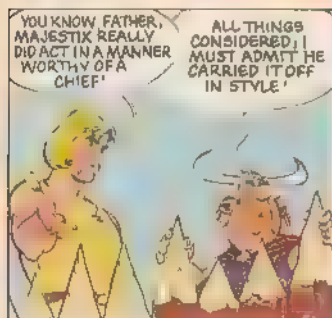
GAULS NEVER, NEVER,  
NEVER WILL BE  
SLAVES! I SHALL BE  
CHIEF OF EVERYONE  
IN THE VILLAGE WITH-  
OUT EXCEPTION, AND  
WITHOUT SLAVES!

YOU DON'T GO CALLING  
OUT THE ROMAN ARMY FOR  
NOTHING! MEN, GRAB HOLD  
OF THIS LOT! THEY CAN BE  
OUR SLAVES THEMSELVES!



HELP THAT  
FOOL MAJESTIX  
HAS RUINED  
EVERYTHING!





IN THE ROMAN CAMP

WE WILL NEVER BE YOUR SLAVES, ROMAN!

DO YOU KNOW THE PENALTIES FOR A SLAVES REVOLT? YOU'D BETTER STOP AND THINK UNLESS YOU WANT TO MAKE THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS AT ROME A SQUARE MEAL.

AND WHILE THEY'RE THINKING, CHAIN THEM ALL UP WELL!!!

CAN I HAVE THOSE THREE SENTRY DUTIES BACK? THE ONES YOU SWAPPED FOR MY COOKHOUSE FATIGUE

PRICES HAVE RISEN IT'LL BE FOUR SENTRY DUTIES NOW!

MEANWHILE

GOOD LUCK, FRIENDS

DON'T WORRY, MELODRAMA! THANKS TO GETAFIX'S KNOW-HOW, OBELIX'S STRENGTH, DOGMATIX'S NOSE AND MY CUNNING WE'LL SOON HAVE YOUR FATHER HOME

FUNNY HOW SURE OF THEMSELVES CLEVERDIX'S ALLIES SEEM. I'LL FOLLOW THE AT A SAFE DISTANCE

DOGMATIX HAS BEEN SNIFFING ABOUT EVER SINCE WE LEFT. THINK HE'S PICKED UP THE SCENT OF A BOAR

NO, NO, IT'S JUST A RED HERRING.

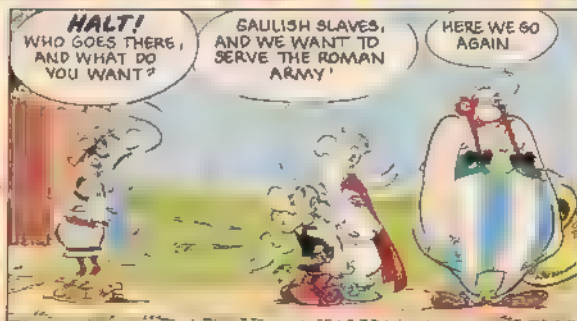
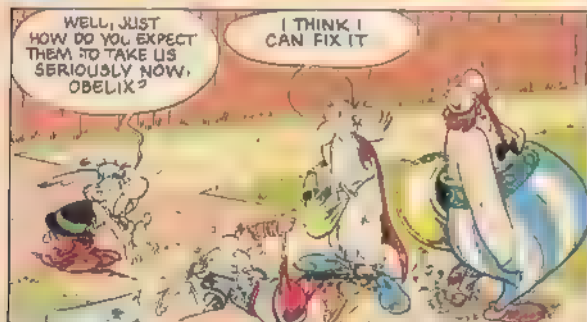
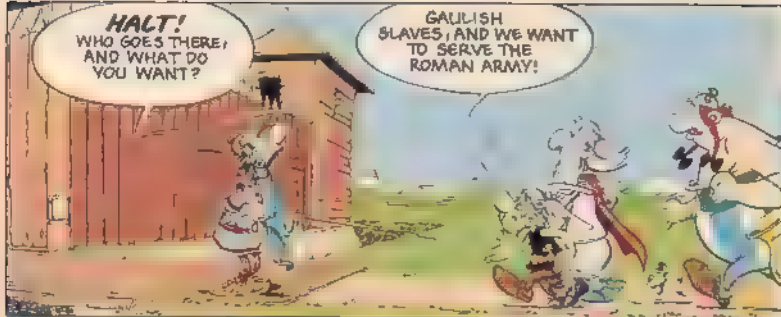
IF SO, IT'S BEEN TAKING CODLIVER OIL!

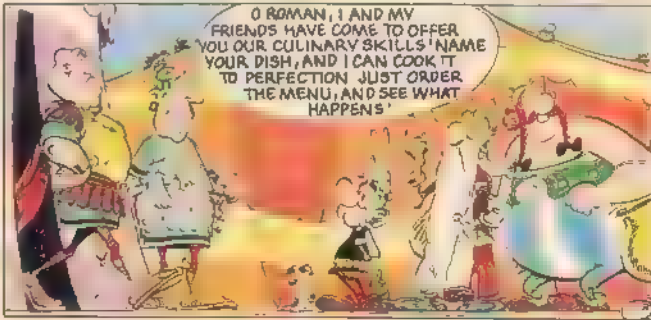
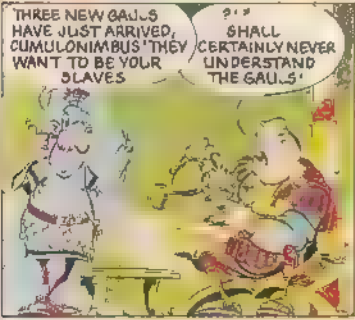
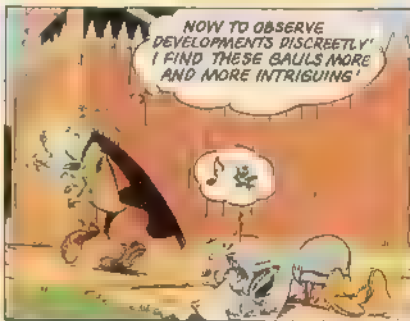
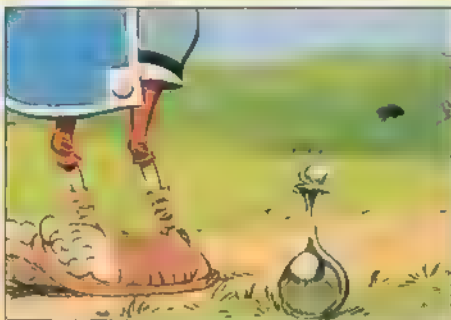
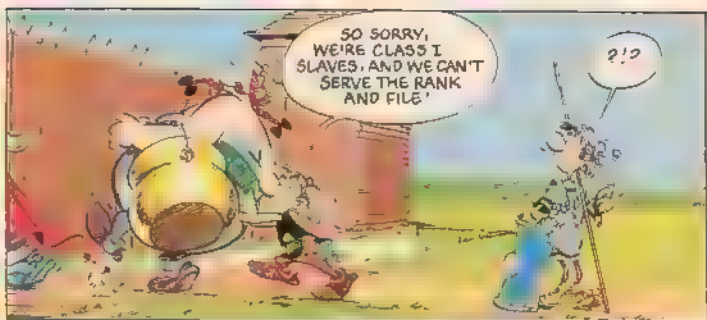
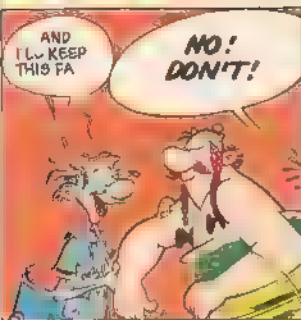
RIGHT YOU GET THE IDEA OBELIX? WE'RE HUMBLE SLAVES SO NO THUMPING THE ROMANS!

LISTEN, ASTERIX

IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A SLAVE-DOG?









THE GODS MUST HAVE SENT YOU, GAUL! A SPOT OF GOOD COOKING WILL CERTAINLY MAKE A CHANGE FROM THE USUAL MESS

OH, WE CAN COOK A GOOD MEAL FOR ALL YOUR MEN CENTURION! THE FEAST OF THE CENTURY, AS YOU MIGHT SAY!



FOR STARTERS, A FORTIFYING SOUP THE MEAT COURSE - A REALLY NICE CLIT - SAY CHUMP CHOP STEWED IN YOUR - I MEAN, IN ITS OWN JUICE - AND WE WON'T MAKE A HASH OF IT IF YOU FANCY ROLL TRY WE CAN COOK YOUR GOOSE FOR YOU! GAME FOR ANYTHING? THEN BROUSE AND QUA! - AFTER THAT YOU GET YOUR DESSERTS - A FOOL WE'LL BEATEN, PERHAPS SOME INSTANT WHIP AND A FEW RASPBERRIES ALL WASHED DOWN WITH THE GAULISH BEER WE CALL WALLOP! IT PACKS QUITE A PUNCH!



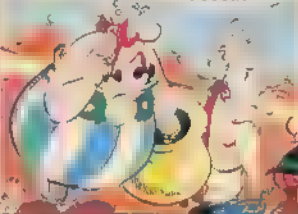
THAT'LL DO FINE! GET ON WITH IT I CAN HARDLY WAIT!

WE SHAN'T TAKE LONG!

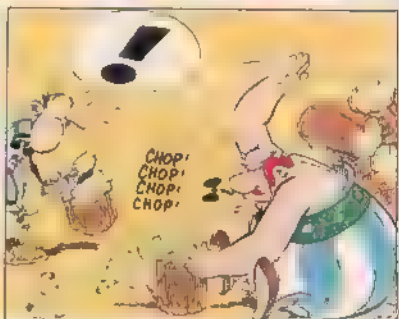


LOOK HERE, GETAFIX, WHY DON'T WE ADD A FEW NICE ROAST BOARS?

?! WHY NOT GO AND CHOP UP SOME KINDLING FOR THE FIRE, OBELIX?



WELL, I ONLY THOUGHT HE'D GONE AND FORGOTTEN THE BOARS



AMAZING! I'VE NEVER BEEN ANYONE CHOP WOOD LIKE THAT BEFORE!

OH THAT'S NOTHING! I COULD CUT A WHOLE TREE DOWN THAT WAY, ONLY DOGMATIX WOULDN'T LIKE IT!



SOON AFTERWARDS

READY IN A MOMENT!



I'M A BIT WORRIED CENTURION! A COUSIN OF MINE STATIONED IN ARMORICA TOLD ME ABOUT A DRUID WHO HAS STRANGE POWERS AND I'M JUST WONDERING WHETHER

YOU'VE GOT A POINT, INFECTIOUS VIRUS WE MUST BE CAREFUL!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TASTE THE SOUP FOR SEASONING, CENTURION?

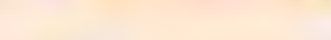
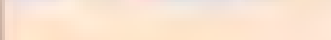
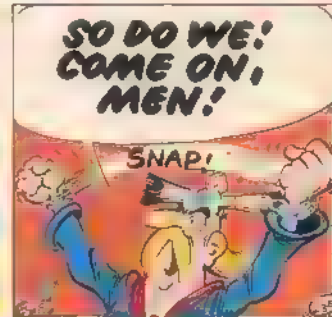
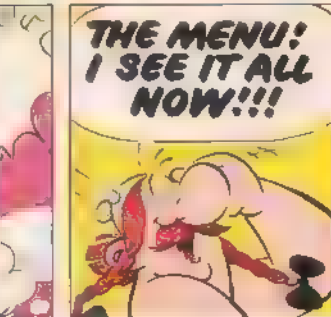
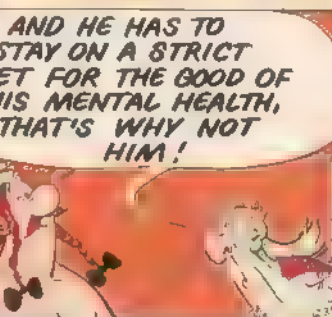
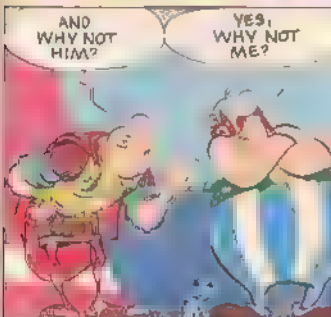
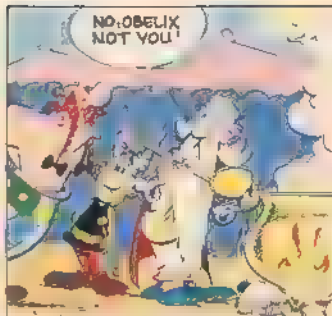
JUST A MOMENT, GAUL! HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO POISON THE GARRISON, SO AS TO SET THE PRISONERS FREE?




I QUITE UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO FIND YOURSELF IN THE SOUP SO WE'LL DRINK SOME OURSELVES TO SHOW IT'S ALL RIGHT!

AND TO PROVE IT EVEN MORE CONCLUSIVELY, WE'LL GIVE SOME TO THE PRISONERS TOO










THAT POTION  
OF YOURS HAS A  
REALLY UPLIFTING  
EFFECT!

YES, IT  
USUALLY MAKES  
PEOPLE RISE TO THE  
OCCASION.

TRY A  
BIT OF KNUCKLE  
IN THE BREAD-  
BASKET FOR A  
CHANGE!

ENJOYING  
YOUR PICNIC  
AL FRESCO?



I GET THE  
PICTURE. NO NEED FOR  
ANY BIG FRESCO TO SHOW  
THAT THE ROMANS CAN'T  
STOMACH THAT DAVID'S  
RECIPES!

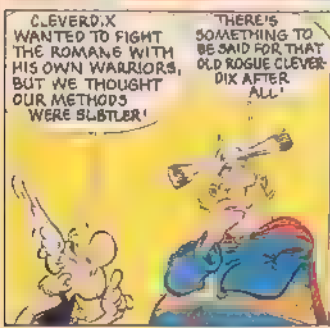
GAULISH  
OOK'ING HUM.  
THEY CAN SCOFF  
THE LOT THEM-  
SELVES!

PERSONALLY,  
I DON'T SEE  
ANYTHING TO  
SCOFF AT.

SSH  
SHUT UP! THEY  
MIGHT WANT  
CARVE US UP  
SOME MORE.

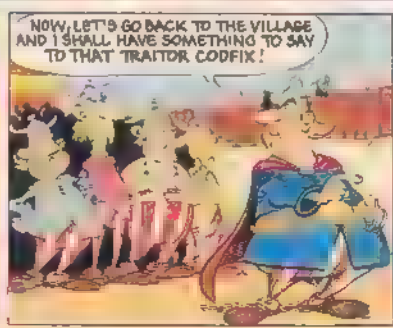
I DON'T KNOW WHO  
YOU ARE, BUT THANKS  
VERY MUCH! YOU  
CAME IN THE NICK  
OF TIME!

I'M GETAFIX, AND MY  
FRIENDS HERE ARE  
ASTERIX, OBELIX AND  
DOSMATIX. CLEVERDIX  
SENT US!




CLEVERDIX  
WANTED TO FIGHT  
THE ROMANS WITH  
HIS OWN WARRIORS,  
BUT WE THOUGHT  
OUR METHODS  
WERE SLEETER!

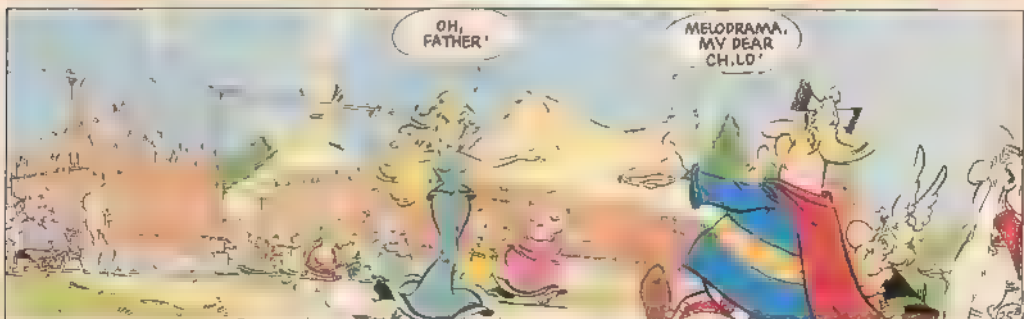
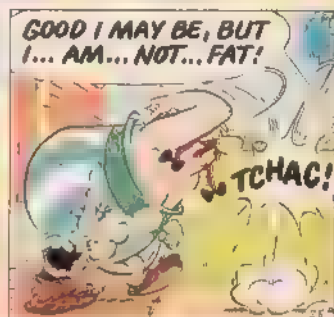
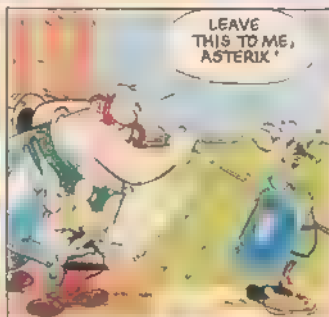
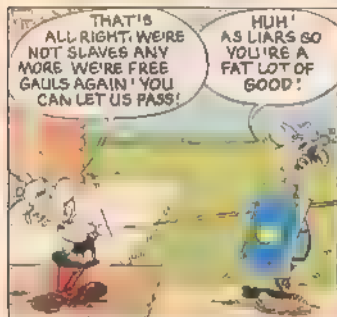
THERE'S  
SOMETHING TO  
BE SAID FOR THAT  
OLD ROGUE CLEVER-  
DIX AFTER  
ALL!



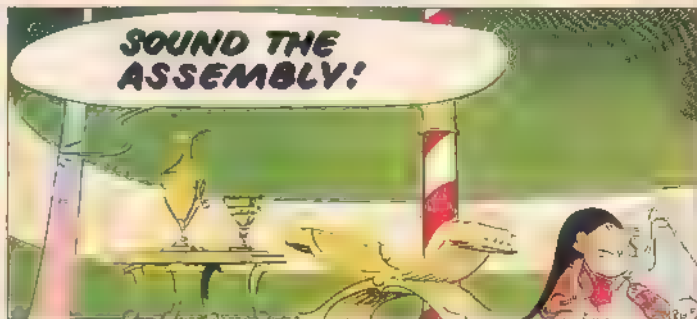
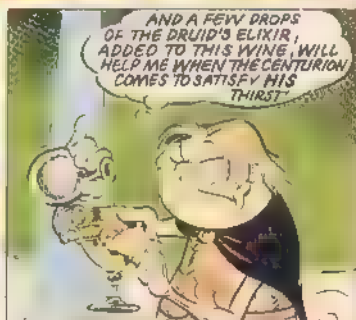
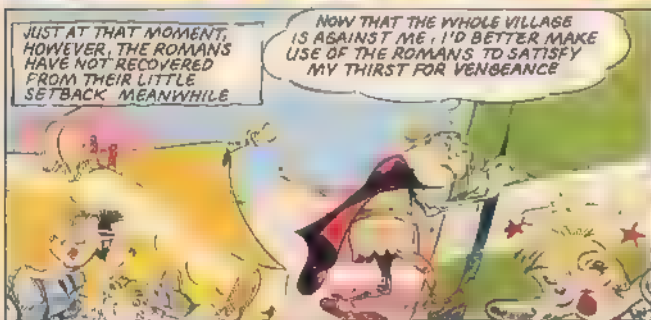
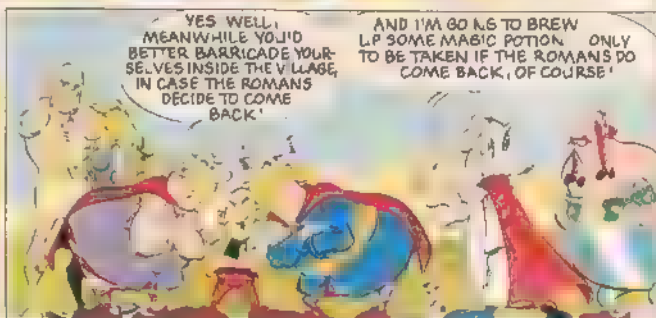
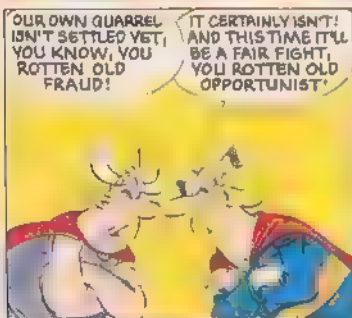
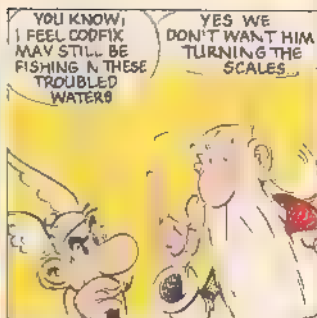
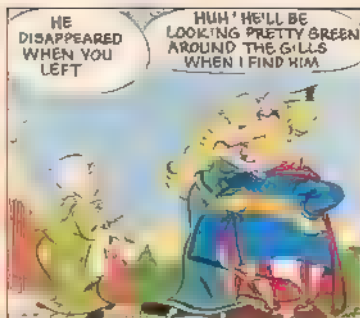
NOW, LET'S GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE  
AND I SHALL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY  
TO THAT TRAITOR CODFIX!




OH, HELP!  
I'D BETTER  
LIE LOW FOR A  
WHILE.










**RIGHT! WE SHALL NOW FORGET THIS WHOLE UNFORTUNATE EPISODE AND CLEAR UP THE MESS! I WANT THE GARRISON ALL SPRUCED UP AND LOOKING LIKE A CENA CANIS! DISMISS!**

\*LATIN DOG'S DINNER



WHAT'S CENA CANIS?

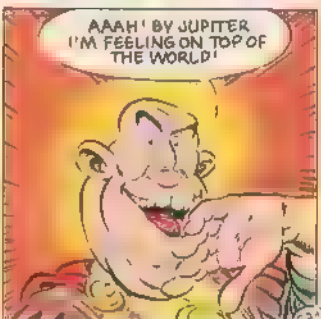
DOG LATIN, YOU IDIOT!



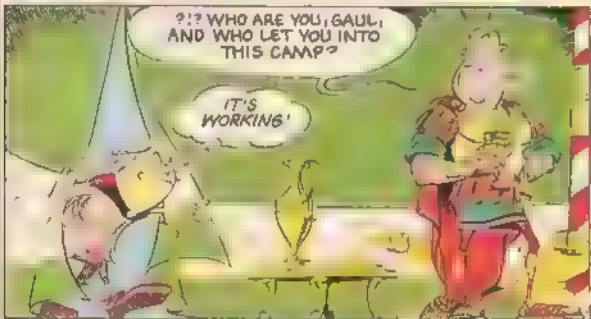
AH, A NICE GOBLET OF WINE WILL HELP ME FORGET MY TROUBLES!



GLUG!  
GLUG!  
GLUG!

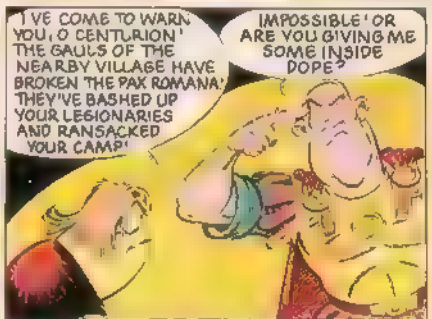


AAAH! BY JUPITER I'M FEELING ON TOP OF THE WORLD!



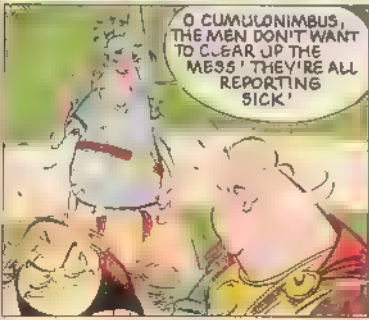
?! WHO ARE YOU, GAUL, AND WHO LET YOU INTO THIS CAMP?

IT'S WORKING!



I'VE COME TO WARN YOU, O CENTURION! THE GAULS OF THE NEARBY VILLAGE HAVE BROKEN THE PAX ROMANA! THEY'VE BASHED UP YOUR LEGIONARIES AND RANSACKED YOUR CAMP!

IMPOSSIBLE! OR ARE YOU GIVING ME SOME INSIDE DOPE?

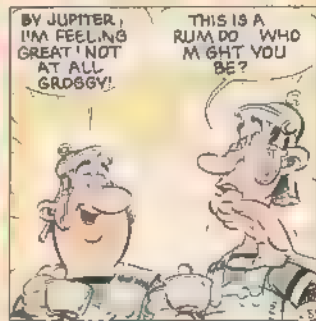
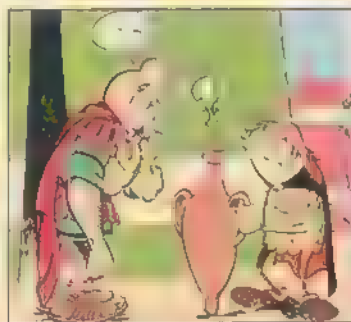
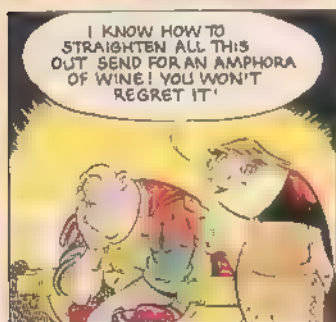
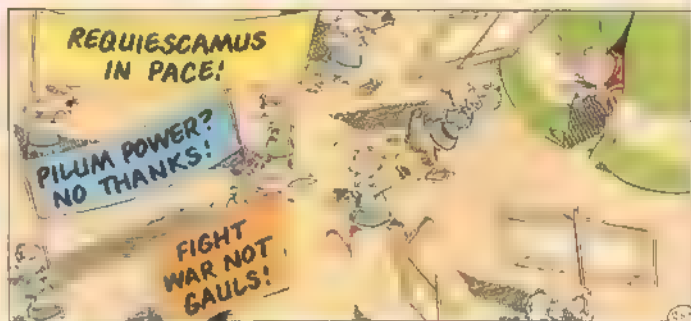
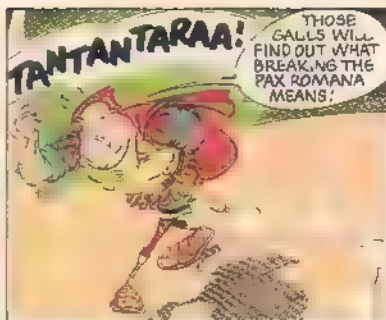
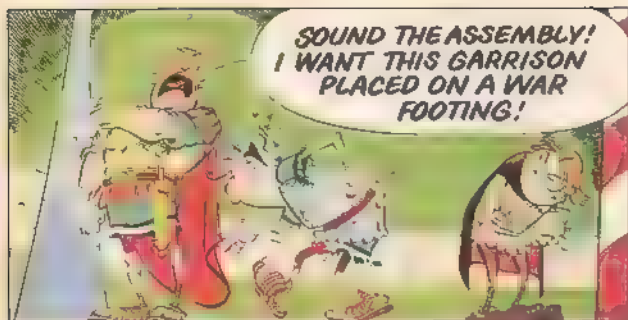


O CUMULONIMBUS, THE MEN DON'T WANT TO CLEAR UP THE MESS! THEY'RE ALL REPORTING SICK!



SICK BAY





AND LATER

I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE, GAUL, BUT YOU WON'T FIND ME UNGRATEFUL FOR SERVICES RENDERED

WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER, ONCE YOU'VE DONE FOR THE VILLAGE AND ALL ITS INHABITANTS

BUT WATCH OUT THERE'S A DRUID WITH THEM, AND HE HAS A POTION WHICH MAKES ANYONE WHO DRINKS IT INVINCIBLE!

CENTURIUM, A COUSIN OF MINE STATIONED IN ARMORICA TOLD ME ABOUT A DRUID THERE WHO HAS STRANGE POWERS, AND I'M JUST WONDERING WHETHER...

YOU'VE GOT A POINT, INFECTIUS VIRUS 'WE MUST BE CAREFUL'

MEANWHILE, IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

THE MAGIC POTION'S READY WE'D BETTER PUT IT SAFE ON NEUTRAL GROUND SOMEWHERE WHILE WE WAIT TO SEE IF THE ROMANS ARE COMING BACK!

SCHIZOPHRENIX'S HUT IS NEUTRAL GROUND IT'S BANG IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE

YES, LET'S PUT IT THERE THAT FOOL SCHIZOPHRENIX HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DECIDE WHICH SIDE HE'S ON!

DIDN'T YOU EVER THINK OF PUTTING FLOOR-BOARDS DOWN OVER THE GAP?

THAT'S FLOORED HIM! WE'LL DO IT NOW

AND SO, A LITTLE LATER

I'LL WATCH OVER THE CAULDRON TONIGHT, TO MAKE DOUBLY SURE!

THEN YOU'D BETTER HAVE THIS GOLIARD OF MAGIC POTION, ASTERIX YOU NEVER KNOW, YOU MIGHT NEED A BOOSTER DOSE, IN SPITE OF THE POTION IN THE CAULDRON



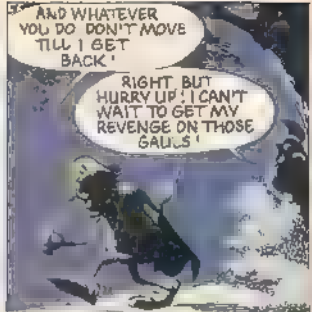
AND THAT NIGHT, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE WOOD NEAR THE GAULISH VILLAGE



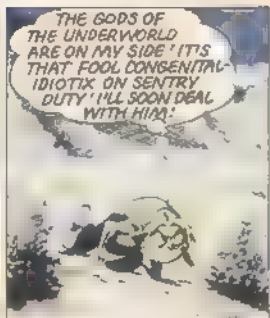
I DON'T TRUST THAT DRUID AND HIS SECRET WEAPONS! I THINK I'D BETTER GO SCOUTING AHEAD BEFORE WE ATTACK!

AND WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T MOVE TILL I GET BACK!

RIGHT BUT HURRY UP! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY REVENGE ON THOSE GAULS!



THE GODS OF THE UNDERWORLD ARE ON MY SIDE! IT'S THAT FOOL CONSENTAL IDIOTIX ON SENTRY DUTY! I'LL SOON DEAL WITH HIM!



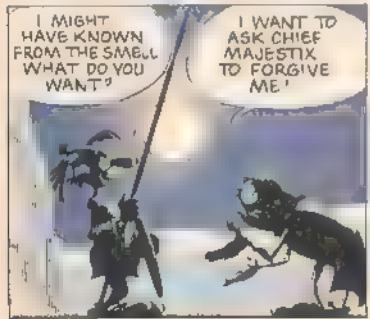
HALT! WHO GOES THERE?

IT'S ME CODRIX



I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN FROM THE SMELL WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT TO ASK CHIEF MAJESTIX TO FORGIVE ME!



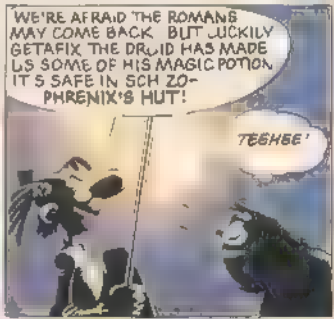
YOU CAN COME IN, BUT IF I WERE YOU I'D KEEP MY DISTANCE FROM MAJESTIX!

WHY ARE YOU MOUNTING GUARD LIKE THIS? WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?



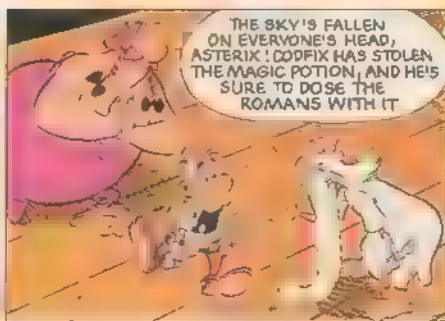
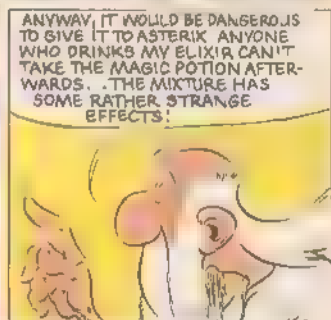
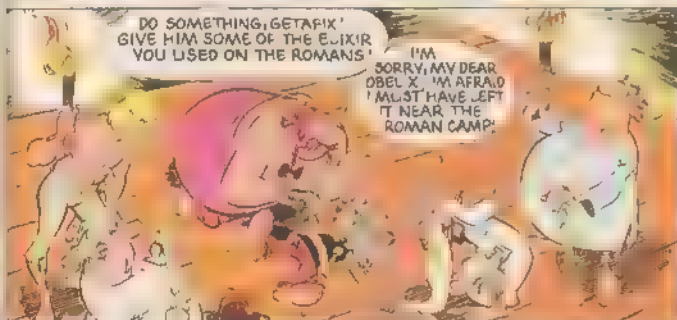
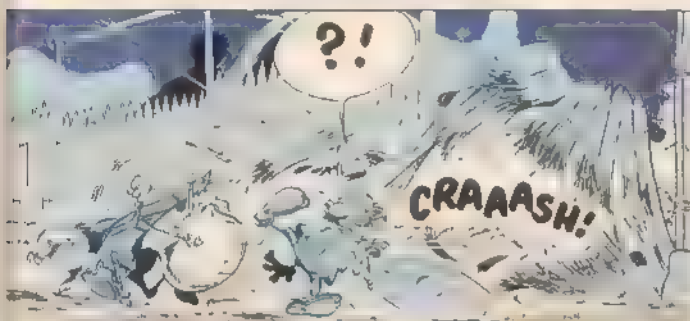
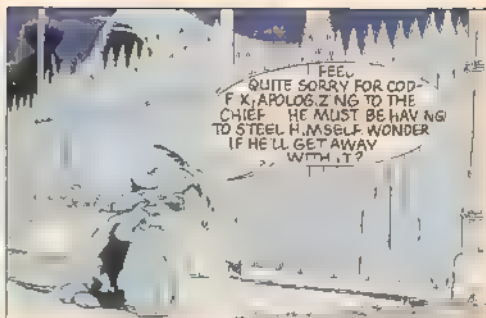
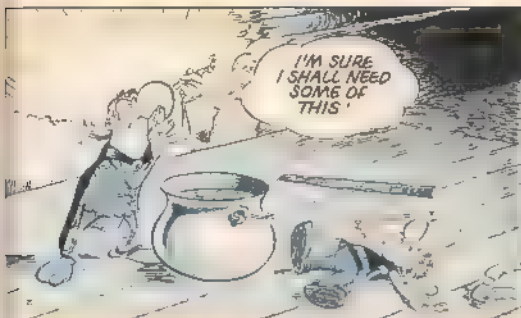
WE'RE AFRAID THE ROMANS MAY COME BACK, BUT LUCKILY GETAFIX THE DRUID HAS MADE US SOME OF HIS MAGIC POTION. IT'S SAFE IN SCH ZOPHRENIX'S HUT!

TESHSE!

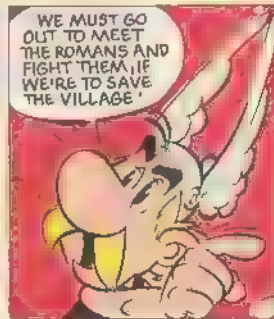
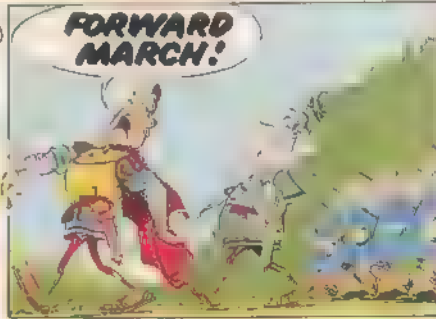
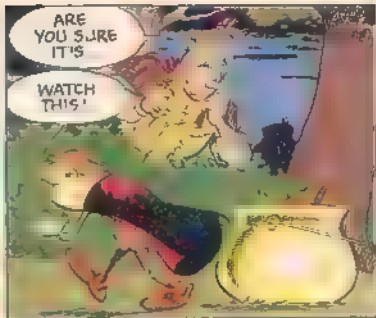
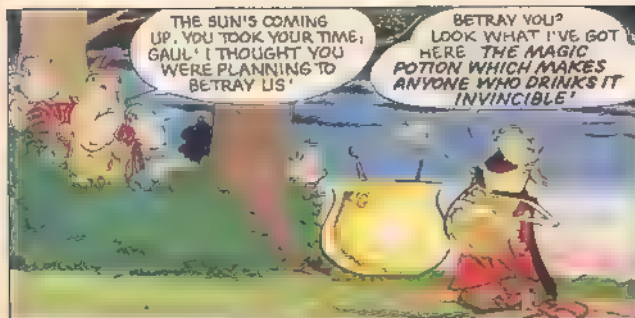


I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SEE STARS INSIDE A HUT BEFORE!



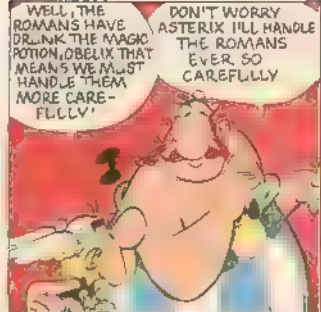






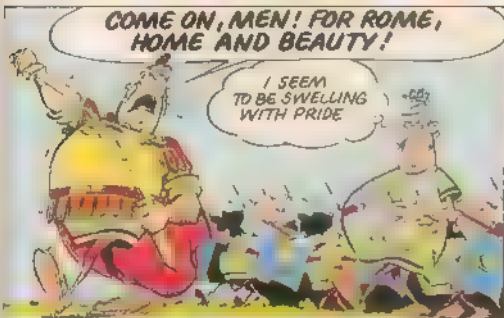


I THINK WE'RE IN FOR SOME MORE FUN, ASTERIX!



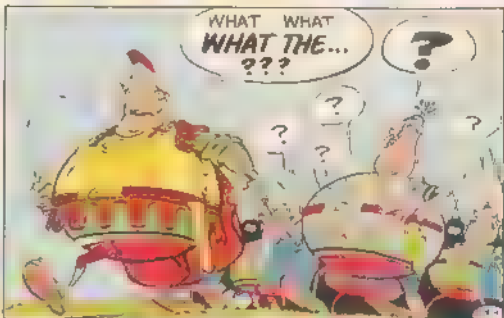
WELL, THE ROMANS HAVE DRUNK THE MAGIC POTION, OBELIX THAT MEANS WE MUST HANDLE THEM MORE CAREFULLY!

DON'T WORRY ASTERIX I'LL HANDLE THE ROMANS EVER SO CAREFULLY



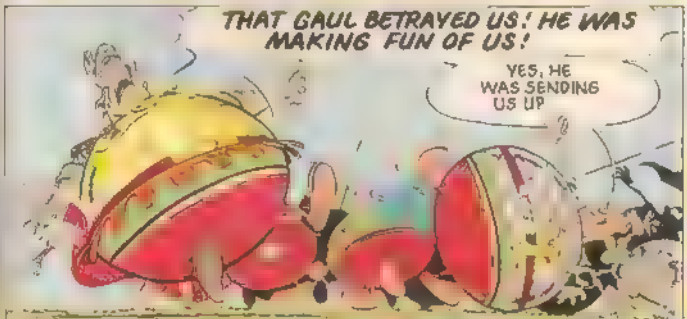
COME ON, MEN! FOR ROME, HOME AND BEAUTY!

I SEEM TO BE SWELLING WITH PRIDE



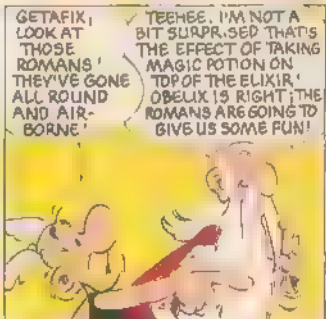
WHAT WHAT WHAT THE... ???

?



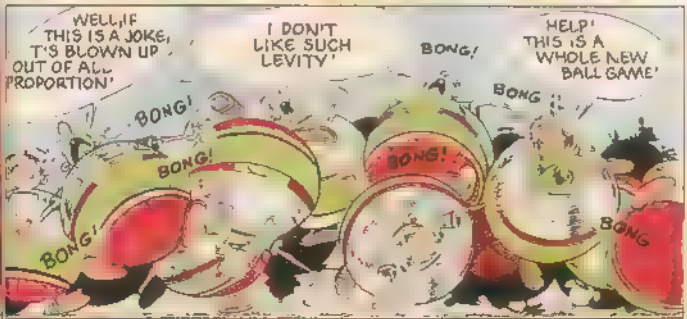
THAT GAUL BETRAYED US! HE WAS MAKING FUN OF US!

YES, HE WAS SENDING US UP



GETAFIX! LOOK AT THOSE ROMANS! THEY'VE GONE ALL ROUND AND AIR-BORNE!

TEHEE, I'M NOT A BIT SURPRISED THAT'S THE EFFECT OF TAKING MAGIC POTION ON TOP OF THE ELIXIR! OBELIX IS RIGHT! THE ROMANS ARE GOING TO GIVE US SOME FUN!



WELL, IF THIS IS A JOKE, IT'S BLOWN UP OUT OF ALL PROPORTION!

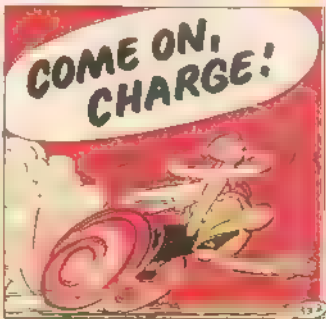
I DON'T LIKE SUCH LEVITY!

BONG!

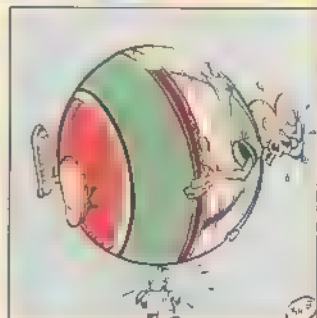
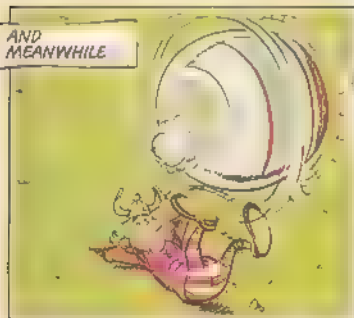
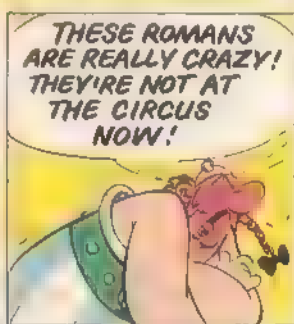
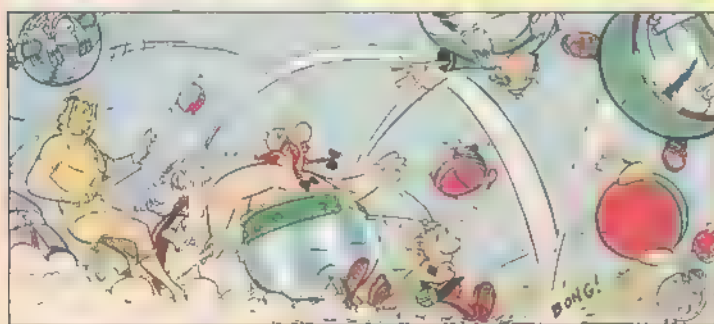
HELP! THIS IS A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME!

BONG!

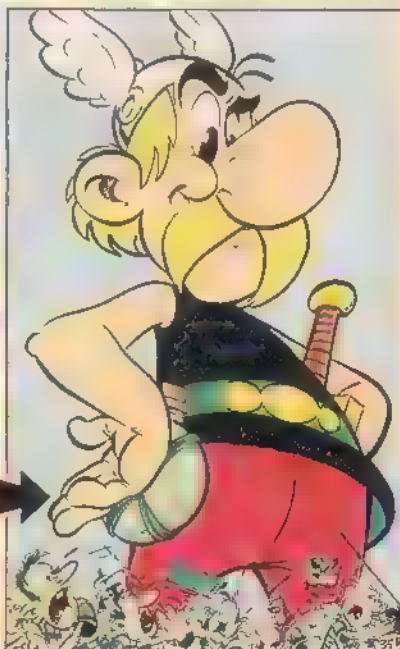
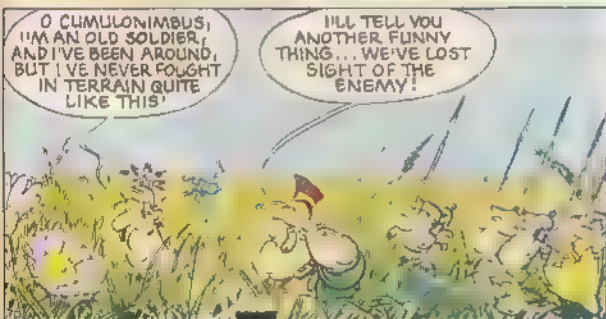
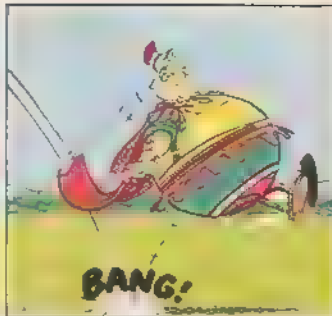
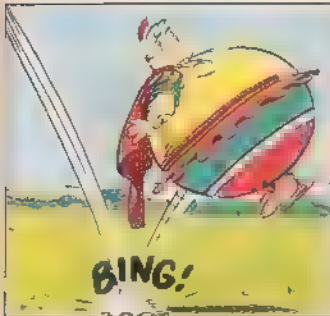
BONG

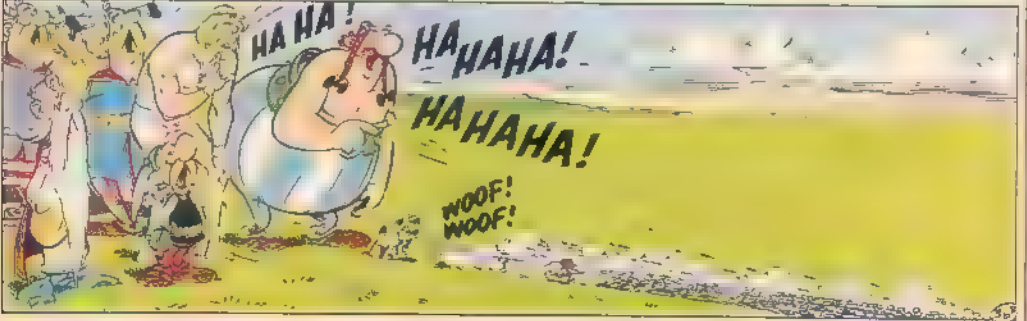
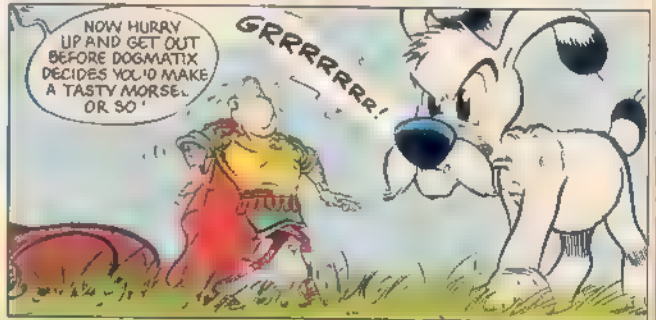
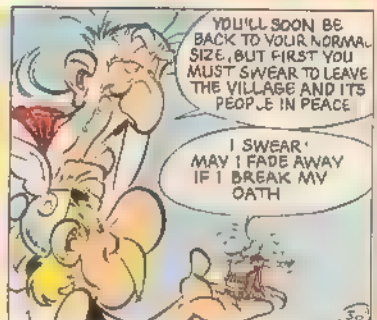
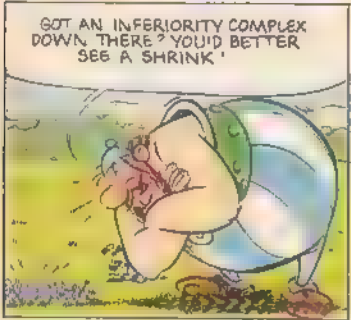
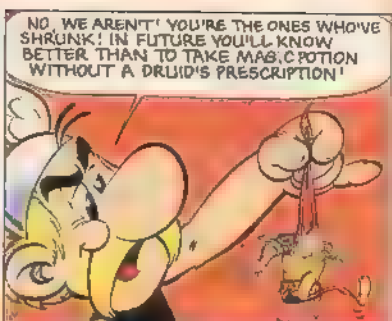
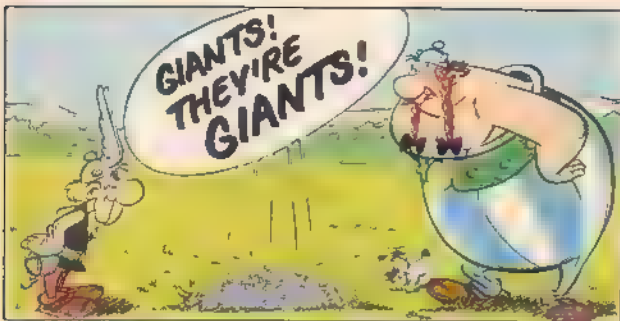


COME ON, CHARGE!









WELL, MY DEAR OBELIX,  
YOU STARTED QUITE A TRAIN  
OF EVENTS WITH THAT PLUNCH  
YOU GAVE THE SENTRY OUT-  
SIDE THE ROMAN CAMP AND  
THE ENEMY LOST OUT!

YOU  
MEAN I  
DID IT?

ER... MAJESTIX, NOW WE'VE DEALT  
WITH THE ROMANS, I... THERE'S  
SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU

JUST A MOMENT,  
MY BOY. DON'T FORGET  
YOUR FATHER AND I STILL  
HAVE TO SETTLE OUR  
ARGUMENT, AND

**MAJESTIX!  
MAJESTIX!**

?!  
MAJESTIX!

CODFIX HAS  
KIDNAPPED  
MELODRAMA.  
HE LEFT THIS  
ROLL OF  
PARCHMENT  
ADDRESSED  
TO YOU!

**THE DOUBLE-  
DEALING  
TRAITOR!**

IF YOU WANT TO  
SEE MELODRAMA  
AGAIN, LEAVE 100  
POUNDS IN GOLD  
NEAR THE DOLMEN  
BY THE SPRING  
BEFORE SUNSET.  
*Codfix*

THE VILLAIN I'M REALLY  
IN A JAM NOW, AND SO IS  
MELODRAMA. IT'S ALL VERY  
WELL FOR CODFIX, BUT  
WHERE DO I GET THAT  
KIND OF MONEY BY  
SUNSET?

I SHALL LEAVE AT  
ONCE IN SEARCH OF CODFIX,  
AND BY TOUTATIS, I SWEAR  
TO BRING MELODRAMA  
BACK SAFE AND  
SOUND

OBELIX  
AND I WILL  
GO WITH  
YOU

\*HENCE MONEY  
FOR JAM

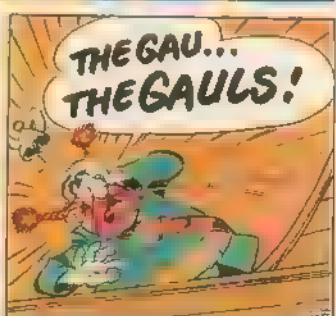
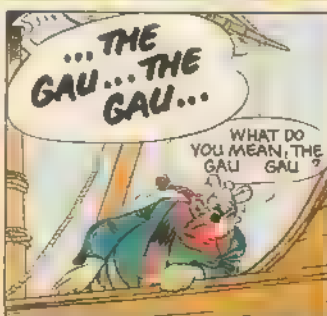
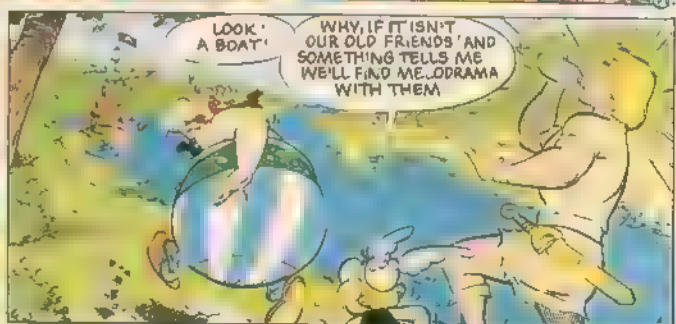
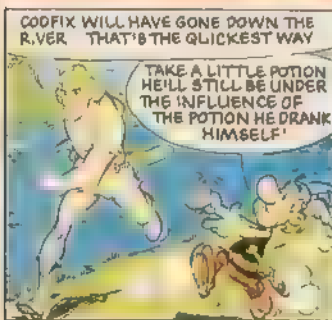
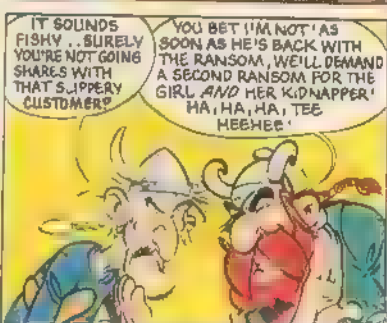
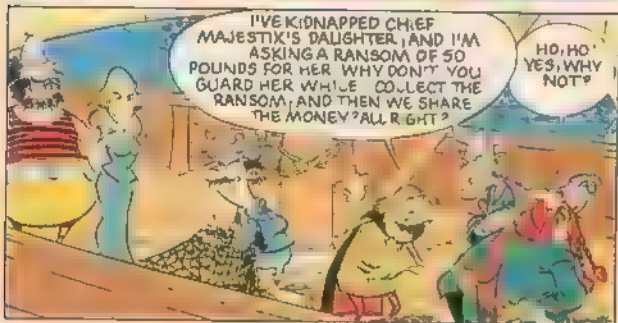
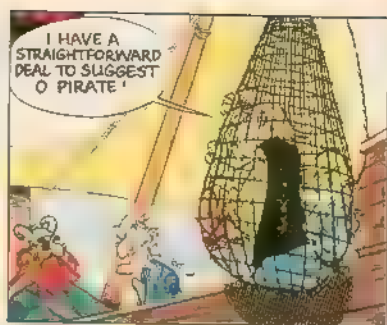
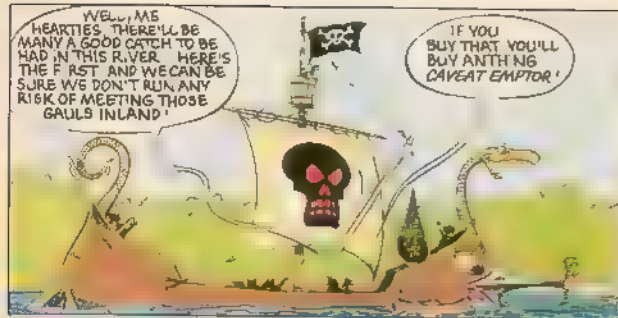
SO WILL DOGMATIX.  
LOOK, HE'S ALREADY  
PICKED UP THE SCENT:  
HE'S MAKING STRAIGHT  
FOR THE RIVER

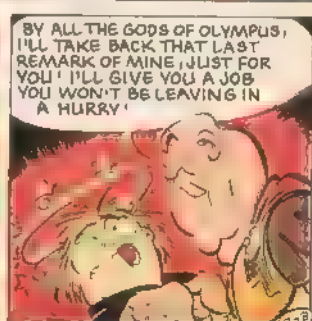
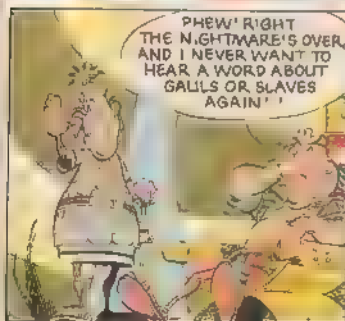
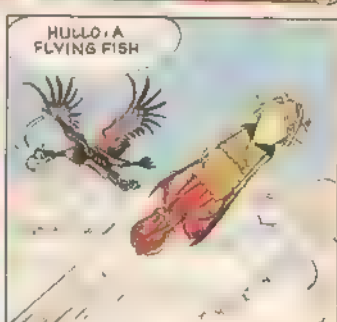
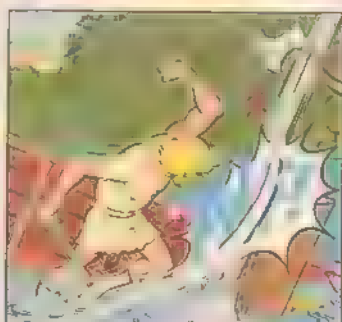
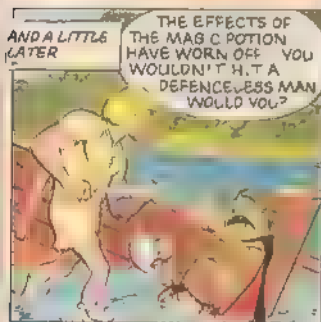
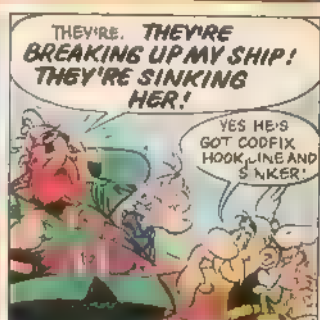
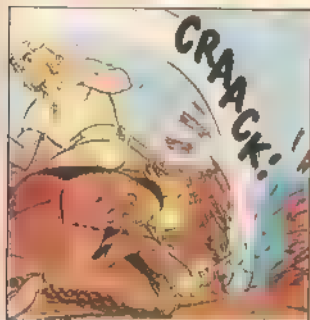
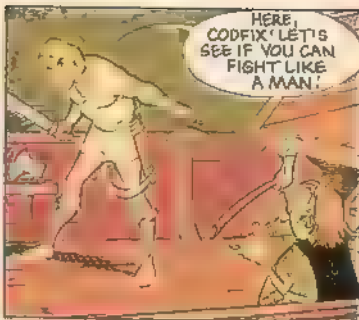
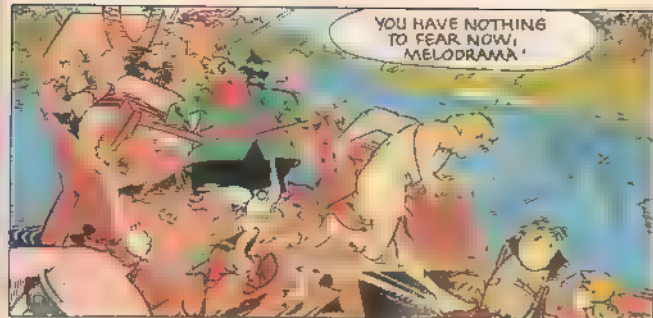
SURE  
ENOUGH

HO, HO! NOT THE  
BEST TIME AND PLACE  
FOR A ROMANTIC ROLE, MY  
DEAR, BUT MULLET OVER,  
AND YOU'LL FIND, ONCE  
YOU'RE USED TO ME, I'M THE  
LIFE AND SOLE OF THE  
PARTY!

?







MEANWHILE

SUNK IN SALT WATER,  
SUNK IN FRESH WATER,  
AND THE WATER I EVER  
WANT AGAIN IS A NIPOF  
AQUA VITAE!

YOU'RE  
GETTING THE  
LINGO NICE. YES  
IT'S TERRA FIRMA  
FOR ME, TOO

QUICK, LET'S GO AND  
SET MAJESTIX'S MIND  
AT REST!

IN TIMES OF TROUBLE SUCH  
AS THIS, IT IS ONLY RIGHT TO  
FORGET OUR DIFFERENCES, AND  
I FEEL FOR YOU, MAJESTIX!

THEY'RE  
BACK, WITH  
MELODRAMA!

OH, FATHER  
HISTRIONIX ACTED  
LIKE A TRUE  
CHIEF

I'M EXTREMELY  
GRATEFUL TO  
HISTRIONIX FOR HIS  
BRAVE ACTION, BUT  
THAT'S GOING A BIT  
TOO FAR, MY  
DEAR

OH NO, IT ISN'T.  
AFTER ALL, HIS-  
TRIONIX IS THE  
SON OF A  
CHIEF!

SON OF A  
CHIEF MY FOOT!!!  
I'M THE ONLY  
REAL CHIEF  
AROUND  
HERE!

OH, FOR GOODNESS'S SAKE, WE'VE  
HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! IF YOU MUST  
FIGHT FOR THE CHIEFTAINSHIP, KEEP  
IT BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU!!!

MELODRAMA IS QUITE  
RIGHT. FIGHT IF YOU  
MUST, BUT LEAVE THE  
OTHER WARRIORS OUT  
OF IT. THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH  
OF YOUR QUARRELS

AND SOON  
AFTER-  
WARDS

NOW, YOU SENILE OLD  
DOTARD, I'LL SHOW YOU  
WHAT A REAL CHIEF CAN  
DO, AND WITH MY  
BARE HANDS!

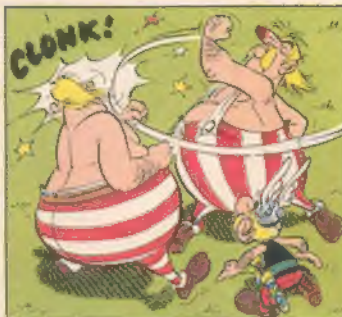
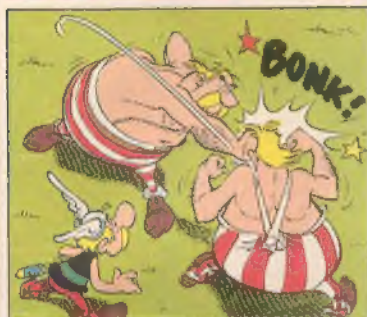
YOU  
DYSPEPTIC OLD  
FOGY! YOU'RE  
IN FOR A  
SHOCK!



YOU'LL NEED  
A NEUTRAL UMPIRE.  
I VOLUNTEER TO REFEREE  
YOUR SINGLE  
COMBAT!



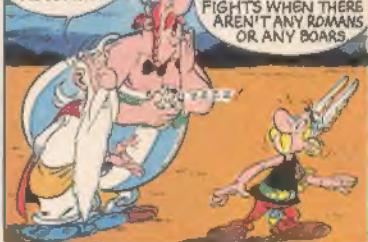
ACCORDING TO THE RULES, THE FIGHT  
MAY GO ON UNTIL SUNRISE TOMORROW. THE  
LOSER IS THE MAN WHO STAYS DOWN AFTER  
A COUNT OF 100! OFF YOU GO, AND MAY  
THE BEST MAN WIN THE PRIZE!



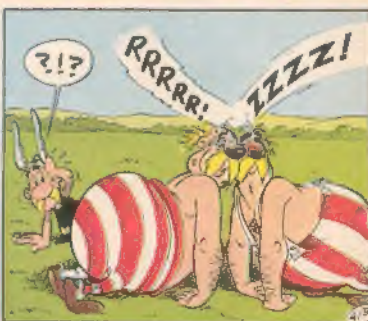
AS EVENING COMES ON, MANY OF THE AUDIENCE,  
TIRING OF THE SHOW, LEAVE THE RING.



IT'S LATE.  
I'M GOING  
TO BED,  
ASTERIX!



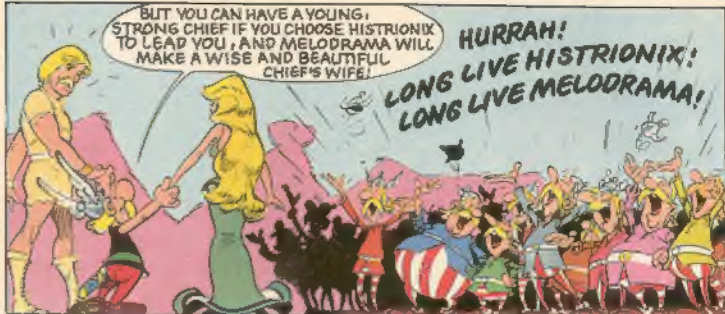
EVEN ASTERIX IS UN-  
ABLE TO KEEP HIS EYES  
OPEN. ALL ALONE, IN  
THE MOONLIGHT, THE  
TWO CHIEFS ARE STILL  
EQUALLY MATCHED.



**FRIENDS, FATE HAS DECIDED THE RESULT OF THE SINGLE COMBAT... NO ONE HAS WON AND NO ONE HAS LOST!**



**BUT YOU CAN HAVE A YOUNG, STRONG CHIEF IF YOU CHOOSE HISTRIONIX TO LEAD YOU, AND MELODRAMA WILL MAKE A WISE AND BEAUTIFUL CHIEF'S WIFE!**



**HURRAH!  
LONG LIVE HISTRIONIX!  
LONG LIVE MELODRAMA!**



**OH, WELL, I RATHER THINK ALL WE CAN DO IS GET DRESSED AGAIN!**

**YOU SAID IT, FAT-FACE!**



**REUNITED AT LAST, UNDER THE RULE OF THEIR NEW CHIEF HISTRIONIX, THE BAULS OF THE VILLAGE DIVERT PART OF THE NEARBY RIVER INTO THE DITCH, WHICH NO LONGER SERVES ANY USEFUL PURPOSE. AND NOW THERE IS NO PARTY OF THE RIGHT OR PARTY OF THE LEFT, ONLY A RIGHT BANK AND A LEFT BANK, RUNNING WATER ON EVERYONE'S DOORSTEP, AND FREEDOM FOR ALL THE VILLAGERS TO GO TO AND FRO.**



**THE CHILDREN CAN STILL GATHER THE FRUITS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S LABOURS WITH IMPUNITY...**

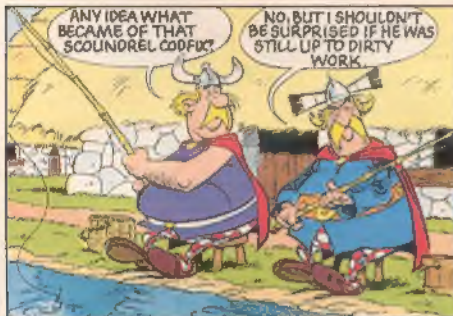




A NEW AND PRACTICAL USE IS FOUND FOR THE TWO GATEWAYS OF THE VILLAGE HERE YOU SEE THE FIRST ONE-WAY SYSTEM KNOWN TO ANCIENT HISTORY!



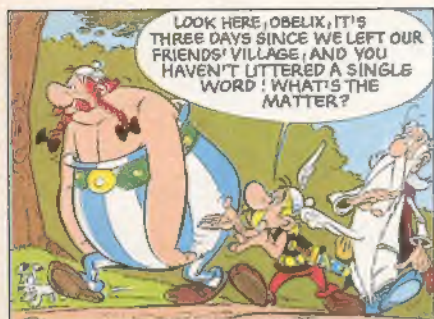
AND SCHIZOPHRENIX'S HUT IS REBUILT AT LAST... THOUGH THE ARCHITECTS DID SLIP UP HERE AND THERE IN THEIR PLANS.



THE WEDDING OF MELODRAMA AND HISTRIONIX IS CELEBRATED AMIDST REJOICINGS FOR ALL AND BOARS FOR SOME.







HOWEVER, THE PLEASURES OF HOME-COMING OVERSHADOW ALL OTHER EMOTIONS.

